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Kent on Sunday

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Sky-high cost of the merger mistake that destroyed a top college

By Chris Britcher
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CHIEFS at K College admit they are likely to report another loss running into millions of pounds later this year.

It comes in the week the college was told by skills minister Matthew Hancock it was to be broken up – signalling an end to its short life.

But the biggest provider of further education in the county insists it will break even by next year, and has assured students it remains 'business as usual' despite the major upheaval behind the scenes.

K College was formed by the much trumpeted merger of South Kent and West Kent colleges, agreed in 2008, and which came into force in 2010.

But the new entity, which has sites in Tonbridge, Tunbridge Wells, Ashford, Folkestone and Dover, and caters for nearly 15,000 students, found itself in a financial quagmire with debts last year totalling £16 million.

More than 150 jobs were lost, principal Bill Fearon resigned, and government body the Skills Funding Agency parachuted financial experts into its management team to help halt the decline.

And this week it was told the days of K College were numbered, with plans to break it up and recruit new management teams to take over its running.

It means by 2014 it will be in new hands and under different names.

The college itself has proposed it is divided in two separate entities; one comprising of Folkestone and Dover, the other of the three in-land sites.

Either way, the K College brand will die. Its existing management team will not be part of the bidding process.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday, interim

Continued on page 2

NIGHTINGALE HITS HOUSING SCHEME

BATTLE: A bird colony has derailed a huge new housing development – **SEE INSIDE**

DEVELOPMENT

Club scraps hotel scheme

AMBITIOUS plans to build a hotel at Kent County Cricket Club's St Lawrence Ground have been scrapped due to the economy.

Instead, it has confirmed it will be building a number of retirement flats at the Canterbury site instead. For full details see inside. **PAGE 3**

CRIME

School in sex abuse probe

A NUMBER of arrests have been made as part of an investigation into claims of sexual abuse at a former special school.

A major probe is now under way into the allegations relating to Swaylands School in Penshurst, which closed more than 20 years ago. **PAGE 5**

HEALTH

'I was dead for ten minutes'

A CANDIDATE in last year's race to become Kent's Police and Crime Commissioner has revealed he 'died' for ten minutes after suffering a heart attack.

But the quick actions of his wife, who delivered life-saving CPR. helped keep Dai Liyanage alive. **PAGE 7**

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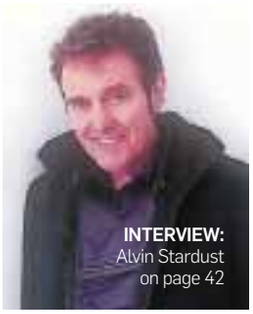
INSIDE

News.....2-30
Kent Remembered 31
Comment/Feedback 32-33

INSIDE



INTERVIEW: Alvin Stardust on page 42

Interview 35
Food and Drink.....39

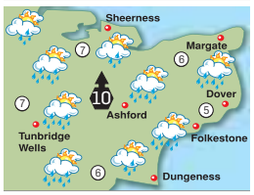
LEISURE
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts, ...37, 41-43

Business Quarter... 45-53

Driving 55-62

Jobs & Notices..... 63-69
Sport.....70-71

Weather



TODAY: Showery spells of rain. Occasional bright or sunny spells. Max temp 5-8C (41-46F). **TONIGHT:** Misty with the odd shower. Min temp -1 to 2C (30-36F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIDE (Metres)

Dover	01.55	6.3	14.18	6.1
Margate	03.01	4.6	15.18	4.3
St Mary's	07.47	5.0	20.03	4.9

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 8C	Min -1C
Tuesday	Max 7C	Min -2C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min -2C
Thursday	Max 6C	Min -2C
Friday	Max 11C	Min 6C
Saturday	Max 11C	Min 4C

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EDUCATION

Government accused of free school bias after seizing site earmarked for grammar 'satellite'

By Marijke Cox
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AN HISTORIC breakthrough in the saga over grammar school provision in west Kent hangs in the balance after government ministers said a site earmarked for development should instead be used for a free school.

It comes just two months after Kent County Council confirmed the old Wilderness School site in Sevenoaks – which currently has no selective school – would house two new grammar school annexes.

The KCC-owned land is currently leased to the Knole Academy, but due to be vacated in 2015 once its £18.3 million extension is built, at which time the Sevenoaks Grammar School would open its doors.

The law forbids the opening of new grammars, but changes made by the Government last year will enable one to open in the town as a 'satellite' of existing girls' and boys' grammar schools.

But the Department for Education has now stepped in saying the Wildernesse site should instead be used for the planned Trinity Free School, which is due to open in September.

Critics say there is no need for more non-selective provision in Sevenokas and that the free school would be half empty. They argue this is just a desperate push by the Government to see more free schools open under the Coalition's flagship policy.

KCC cabinet member for education Mike Whiting said it could be seen as a poor use of public money due to the surplus of places already seen in high schools in the district.

"I am aware of the Government's support to date for the Trinity School, and I have long been an advocate for a family of Kent schools of different types," he said.

"Indeed, the county council helped The Wells Free School to secure a site for its own future in Tunbridge Wells. However, the provision of a free school at Sevenoaks could be seen as a poor use of public money, given the actual needs in the area."

"On this issue, and in this location, it is important for KCC to hold its course, because there is a clear need for selective education places in Sevenoaks, it is something residents have asked us."

"We will be looking in detail at what the Government is proposing – and how we might respond."

Cllr Whiting said he and his colleagues at KCC remained committed to seeing a grammar school annexe set up in the town, which was a proposal prompted by parents through a petition last year.

County Hall chiefs voted in favour of the plan.

Peter Read from Kent Independent Education Advice said KCC could take legal action, although the council denied it was taking any such steps at present.

"The Government is seizing the land without any compensation to KCC," said Mr Read.

"The Government is pushing for a school for which there is no need and is ignoring the wishes of the community. Government has a department dedicated to supporting free schools and another one saying we'd quite like to have a grammar school there."

Currently children in Sevenoaks have to travel out of the district to attend a grammar school.

Flaws in original merger 'noose around neck of new college'

Continued from front page

principal Phil Frier, who joined in January, explained: "There will be quite big losses again for this financial year, but purely because of the restructuring process.

"I don't think it will be a scary figure. The Government agencies are aware of this and are supportive.

The final stage of the redundancy programme is now taking place – after which some 158 staff will have left.

However, Mr Frier vowed the college is now balancing its books and will be fighting fit by 2014, when new owners will be in place.

He adds: "Ultimately, the merger didn't work. My analysis – and I've been involved in mergers elsewhere – is that there were a whole series of contributory factors which led to the significant debts incurred.

"The first was structural. There were flaws in the original merger to do with timescale and the way it was done.

"Secondly, the debt associated with South Kent College at merger of more than £11 million was a noose around the neck of the new college.

"Then there is the reduction in public funding generally which all colleges are experiencing, so a fall in revenue.

"And finally there were leadership mistakes within the college. The principal resigned, the finance director resigned, five members of the governing body moved on. So there has been acceptance of leadership mistakes internally. I'm just glad they all didn't go as there would now be a vacuum."

He also confirmed the college remained in talks with housing developers who have secured a deal to buy its Ashford site in Jemmett Road.

With plans for a multi-million pound campus in the centre of the town put on ice due to its financial woes, and with no confirmed replacement site in place, the college needs to extend its stay in its existing buildings.

Mr Frier stays he expects the college to remain there for potentially the next three years. All of which is in stark contrast to the multi-million pound complex in Tonbridge which has been subject to an almost complete rebuild in recent years.

Mr Frier added: "K College won't die immediately. We will continue to offer provision and in September 2013, we will make a commitment to any student the course they embark on will be guaranteed – whether that is a two or three-year course – backed by the funding agency and government departments.

BAD MARKS: K College will be split up

"By September 2014, there will be new management and organisation taking over the running of the college. The brand and name across the door will change, but the range and quality of provision shouldn't.

"This is also going to be conducted in an open manner. In the past mergers were done behind closed doors, which I think was a problem here when the merger was agreed three years ago."

A statement from the Skills Funding Agency explained: "The Department for Business Innovation and Skills, the Skills Funding Agency and the Education Funding Agency (EFA) have reviewed K College's structure and prospects appraisal, which sets out proposals for securing a viable future for education and training services delivered by the college.

"Following the appraisal review, the skills minister has agreed the agency will run a competitive tender exercise for its provision and the EFA's provision currently delivered by the college.

"Proposals submitted will need to demonstrate how they meet the needs of local people and businesses. The college will now concentrate on ensuring continuity of learning is maintained throughout the competition and the subsequent transition period.

"We expect to have secured the delivery of replacement provision, through the competition process, by early 2014."

The news was welcomed by campaigners who had feared Folkestone and Dover campuses may originally have had to be sold off to balance the books.

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LITERATURE

Book reveals the power of urban legends and other creepy tales

By Joe Bill
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A PHANTOM hitchhiker on Blue Bell Hill and a smartly dressed shopper in Bluewater with murderous intent are just two of the county's most popular urban legends.

And let's not forget the much-repeated tale of one of the world's greatest footballers offering to pay off someone's mortgate in return for cancelling a wedding at a popular venue.

Now they, and many others, have been brought together to form the basis of a new book examining the roots, and reality, of some of Kent's most discussed tall stories.

Neil Arnold, 38, from Rochester, has compiled Kent Urban Legends, his latest book outlining creepy tales and historical hearsay that continues to be passed off as fact in workplaces and playgrounds around the county.

Mr Arnold explained: "They are friend-of-a-friend stories, passed down through generations and often taken as fact.

"They are campfire tales and folk tales. They are always around these stories, they are like Chinese whispers."

Mr Arnold is a renowned investigator into the county's mysteries – and is an expert and firm believer in big cats living in Kent.

He added: "With some of the stories I have gone out and researched them, like the girl hitchhiker on Blue Bell Hill."

A number of motorists have claimed they have either knocked down or picked up a woman along Blue Bell Hill near Maidstone, only for her to then disappear.

Mr Arnold explained: "People who experience it don't generally pick up a hitchhiker, they actually knock a girl down. It's been tracked back to a crash in the 1950s and then further back to a murder in the early 1900s. So some urban legends have a true basis, but with ghosts it's obviously impossible to prove anything.

"Then there is the one about the famous footballer who offered to pay off a person's mortgage because they had double-booked a venue for their wedding. It's all complete rubbish, but it even makes the papers.

"That is the power of these stories – everybody thinks it's true because it happened to a friend of a friend.

"There was a story that went around just after Bluewater first opened.

"There was a woman who gives a smartly dressed man a lift because he has broken down in the car park. She then comes to her senses about giving a stranger a lift and asks him to get out and check a tyre before she quickly drives off. But the man leaves a suitcase in the back. When she checks it, the case is full of knives and torture equipment.

"There is some really creepy stuff."

■ **Kent Urban Legends is released on March 25 and Neil Arnold will be signing copies at Maidstone Waterstones on Saturday, April 6, from 11am.**

AUTHOR: Investigator Neil Arnold

TELEVISION

Later...comes to county

HIT music TV show Later...with Jools Holland is to switch to Maidstone Studios following the closure of BBC Television Centre in London.

The popular BBC2 show often attracts the biggest names in the music industry and producers had been hunting for a new location for the past year.

Executive producer Mark Cooper said: "It's taken a long time to find, but Maidstone has made us very welcome."

Mr Holland lives in Cooling on Hoo.

CRIME

OAP in loan shark probe

A PENSIONER has been released on bail after being arrested on suspicion of being a loan shark.

The 66-year-old woman was arrested following a raid on a house in the Gravesend area by the England Illegal Money Lending Team, in partnership with Kent County Council.

She is due to report back to police on May 30.

FUNERAL

Leader's final farewell

FRIENDS and family paid an emotional final tribute to the leader of Ashford Borough Council on Wednesday, at the funeral of Peter Wood.

The Conservative politician died earlier this month, just days after saying he was having to step down temporarily as leader after surgery. A service, attended by the likes of MP Damian Green, took place at a town centre church.

DEVELOPMENT

Retirement homes to replace hotel in cricket ground redevelopment

KENT County Cricket Club has scrapped plans to build a hotel overlooking the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury and will instead look to build retirement apartments.

As part of the extensive ground redevelopment, the club had hoped to build a hotel and fitness centre, but was unable to attract the right scheme in the tough financial climate.

Now it has teamed up with McCarthy & Stone to look at proposals to build a 'high-quality residential scheme' comprising apartments 'designed for those wishing to remain active in later life'.

However, it raises questions about how the move fits into the club's previous claim that to make the redevelopment work, it needed to generate business 365-days-a-year.

PROPOSALS: The cricket club is looking at development plans

The county club will start a consultation in the coming months to inform club members, residents, businesses and other interested groups about the specifics.

Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford said: "The club, after considerable efforts to generate interest, has concluded that the prospect of securing a high-quality hotel developer is extremely remote.

"McCarthy & Stone is a leader in its field, I hope we can look forward to seeing a high quality scheme developed."

A spokesman for the firm added: "We are committed to engaging with the community and club and will be offering residents and members the opportunity to meet with the project team to discuss early proposals. This will ensure residents and stakeholders can view and comment on the plans, and allow people to speak with the team and provide feedback."

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COURT

Apprentice awaits ruling

A DECISION is expected within a month following the conclusion of an industrial tribunal brought by the former winner of BBC TV show The Apprentice, claiming constructive dismissal.

Stella English, who lives in Whitstable, won the £100,000 job with Lord Sugar's firm in 2010, but claims she was just an "overpaid lackey" - a claim the businessman denies.

CRIME

£5m of drugs found in lorry

A CANNABIS haul with a street value of nearly £5 million has been seized by police.

The haul, found in specially constructed metal boxes in the back of a lorry, is the biggest amount of cannabis resin the force has ever recovered.

Police made the discovery last Friday after stopping a vehicle in Sandy Lane, in Ashford. Five people have been arrested.

WILDLIFE

Cattle all set to return to nature site for the first time in a century

By Chris Britcher
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A TRIAL scheme to see cattle return to grazing on the Warren in Folkestone has got under way – reviving a practice last seen in 1924.

An important site for wildlife in the UK, the Warren remains a rare site of chalk grassland.

Kirk Alexander, partnership manager of the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership, said: "The Warren is a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) but Shepway District Council and Natural England, the Government body that advises on nature conservation, have become concerned that it has been deteriorating. We are now working together to re-introduce grazing to maintain and enhance the site for both wildlife and people."

Work started earlier this month, with a fence due to be put up in the spring.

The area is an eight acre site and will be grazed by Highland cattle from a local farm.

BACK: Grazing cows will return

It is estimated as much as 80 per cent of the chalk grassland in the UK has been lost over the last 100 years, consumed by the spread of shrubs and trees.

The Warren is believed to be the only remaining site in Kent for the grayling butterfly, the caterpillars of which feed on fine grasses in hot, sunny places. It has declined in Kent and nationally because of the loss of short grassland habitat, typically grazed grassland or crumbling cliff sites.

CRIME

Police investigate sex former special school

By Marijke Cox
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A MAJOR probe into claims of child sex abuse at a school in a picturesque village is likely to have been sparked after victims found the courage to speak out in the light of the Jimmy Savile scandal.

This week it emerged four arrests had been made in relation to offences at Swaylands School in Penshurst, near Tonbridge, between 1967 and 1993.

The school – which catered for pupils with learning, emotional and behavioural difficulties – closed in 1994.

Some 20 victims have been identified by the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, which is spearheading the investigation.

A 70-year-man from Lancashire, a 72-year-old man from Norfolk, a 69-year-old man from Edinburgh and a 60-year-old man from Berkshire have all been arrested and bailed.

It comes 10 years after two men were jailed for sex offences against four children at the school.

This latest investigation was launched by officers with support from charity the National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC), which is on hand to help victims.

Acting operations manager John Bird said the Swaylands investigation was a consequence of the Jimmy Savile exposé where victims of sexual abuse were finally finding the courage to come forward and speak out for the first time.

Calls to the charity's support line have soared since ITV's Exposure documentary at the end of last year.

Explained Mr Bird: "The Swaylands School case is absolutely an example of victims finding the courage to come forward.

"A report by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary released this week pointed this out; it's the Yewtree effect."

Operation Yewtree is the name of the investigation into abuse by Savile and others in the entertainment industry.

"Victims feel they will be taken seriously by police now; they feel like they can finally come forward," said Mr Bird. "Views of society are changing. We knew all these victims were out there and now they're speaking out."

Mr Bird said while he could not comment on Swaylands School due to the on-going investigation, he said that vulnerable or troubled children were more at risk of being targeted by paedophiles.

"Jimmy Savile went to Duncroft School and even into hospitals to target children," he said. "I can't comment on Swaylands, but in general terms, vulnerable children are more at risk."

As part of the Penshurst probe, three addition-

SWAYLANDS

The school was run by the London borough of Barnet from 1965 to 1994.

It was initially a school for young people with moderate learning difficulties, but from 1987 it became a school for boys aged 11-17 with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Council chiefs said they became aware of allegations of sexual abuse of students by two staff members in December 1992 – who were later convicted – and the following year carried out an inquiry, recommending the closure of the school.

In late 2011, the council received further allegations from ex-pupils, which were passed to Kent Police.

Cabinet member for education, children and families at Barnet council, Andrew Harper, said: "Since receiving those allegations we've been working closely with Kent Police, but we cannot comment in any way on the allegations while they are subject to a criminal investigation."

'LACK OF TRUST'

A leading expert in sociology has explored the "precarious" state of trust in society following the exposure of Jimmy Savile.

Honorary professor of sociology at the University of Kent, Frank Furedi, examines the sudden transformation of a man seen as a cultural icon into the personification of evil in his new book, Moral Crusades in an Age of Mistrust: The Jimmy Savile Scandal.

Mr Furedi points out that concerns raised by the Savile affair will intensify mistrust and encourage "moral crusaders" to expand their activities.

A climate, he says, which has led to at least one public figure being falsely accused of the sexual abuse of minors.

"Although the promoters of such crusades are motivated by good intentions, the outcome of their activity is to disrupt intergenerational relations," he said.

"Suspicion directed towards grown-ups means they become more distanced from young people.

"Yet the exercise of adult responsibility is essential for the security of children."

He said the culture of mistrust has been made worse by the recent horse meat scandal, the drug revelations about cycling star Lance Armstrong and allegations surrounding high profile religious figures.

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DEVELOPMENT

Campaigners thrilled

THE iconic nightingale could scupper plans for a controversial housing development of 5,000 homes in Medway.

Government advisor Natural England has made Lodge Hill, on land north of the A228 at Chattenden on the Hoo Peninsula, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI).

The land was earmarked for development of a new town by Land Securities, with 5,000 homes and community facilities, including schools and roads.

But Natural England has given the site top protection after it found it to have a significant nightingale breeding population, with more than 80 of the singing birds living at the former army base.

abuse allegations at a in picturesque village

YEWTREE EFFECT: Shamed former star Jimmy Savile (above) and former site of Swaylands (below)

al suspects were identified by officers but died before the investigation was launched.

Detective Chief Inspector Paul Fotheringham said: "This is a complex inquiry, where we have traced many people and records spanning a number of years.

"Kent Police take allegations of previously unreported offending seriously and every effort is made to investigate whenever appropriate and possible.

"We have also been working with a number of charities to ensure appropriate support is in place for the victims we have been speaking with."

NAPAC is working with Kent Police to help support any victims.

Chief executive Peter Saunders said: "Coming forward and speaking with the police about the crime of childhood abuse is never easy.

"It is a particularly nasty crime that often leaves the victim feeling vulnerable and anxious. These feelings usually persist long into adulthood. NAPAC is pleased to be working alongside Kent Police to address these fears and they will pass on our contact details to anyone who needs our support."

Police investigating officers can be reached by leaving a message on the answerphone on 01622 654852.

■ **To contact NAPAC, call the freephone support line 0800 085 3330 or go to www.napac.org.uk for more information.**

Visit www.kent.police.uk/advice for further advice on abuse or serious assault.

as nightingales halt development

Campaigners from the Kent Wildlife Trust and RSPB hope this will mean the end to the development, which they argue would destroy precious land supporting not only nightingales, but bats, lizards, snakes, badgers and rare insects such as the shrill carder-bee.

But Medway Council has vowed to challenge Natural England's decision.

Portfolio holder for economic growth and strategic development, Jane Chitty, said: "We will be looking to meet with ministers and reverse this ill-considered decision so that we can move forward with delivering the homes that local families urgently require.

Developer Land Securities stressed its masterplan proposals were woven into the existing landscape and that parts would be enhanced, preserved and protected.

A spokesman said it was disappointed with the decision.

Interested parties have been given until July 15 to make representations.

COURT

Noye fails in latest appeal

THE Court of Appeal has thrown out an attempt by the notorious criminal Kenneth Noye to challenge his sentence for the road rage killing of Stephen Cameron.

Noye, 65, was sentenced in 2000 to a minimum of 16 years behind bars for stabbing Mr Cameron on the slip-road of the M25 at Swanley in 1996.

He then fled the country before police found him in Spain and arrested him.

The three appeal judges said the application was "wholly without merit" and dismissed a call from lawyers who wanted the nine months spent on remand in Spain taken off his jail term.

CHARITY

County's Comic Relief

THOUSANDS of fundraisers helped raise millions of pounds for Comic Relief on Friday – with many events continuing over this weekend.

The traditional charity push, which takes place every two years, culminated in a star-studded telethon. Local events saw members of the public try their hand at stand-up comedy in Tunbridge Wells, and the University of Kent held a cookery competition at its Canterbury campus. The final figure raised is still to be confirmed.

TRANSPORT

Death fall at crossing

THE Dartford Crossing had to be closed last Sunday after a man took his own life by jumping off the Queen Elizabeth II Bridge.

Police officers were alerted to the man, 42 from Buckinghamshire, who was threatening to jump. They spent more than four hours trying to talk him down.

His body was swiftly recovered by a waiting lifeboat and rushed to Darent Valley Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

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EMERGENCY

'I went into the house and dropped down dead'

Crime commissioner candidate tells **Marijke Cox** how his wife brought him back to life

A CONTENDER in last year's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) race has described the moment he dropped dead of a heart attack for a terrifying 10 minutes only to be saved by the brave actions of his wife.

Dai Liyanage, who stood as an independent candidate in last November's PCC election, had been clearing snow from the front of his Rainham home on January 20 before he collapsed.

"I went into the house to have a drink and I dropped down dead," he said. "Luckily my wife heard the thud as I hit the wooden floor and she rushed in to find me."

The 68-year-old had no pulse and no other signs of life.

His quick-thinking wife Mary, who is a nurse, jumped into action and performed CPR (see box) for an achingly long 10 minutes before an ambulance crew arrived.

"I was dead for 10 minutes and my wife brought me back to life," said Sri Lanka-born Mr Liyanage, a well-known face around Medway and a former high ranking Liberal Democrat.

"The first thing I saw was two ambulance people looking at me. They took my blood pressure and probably thought I'd just fainted because I walked to the ambulance – perhaps I shouldn't have done really."

NOT MY DAY TO DIE: Dai Liyanage was 'dead' for ten minutes before his wife's efforts brought him back to life

It was only when he arrived at Medway Maritime Hospital that tests showed he had suffered a heart attack. Further tests revealed he had severely blocked arteries to his heart and would have to go to a London hospital for a triple heart bypass.

"I'm such a fit guy; I go to the gym three times a week – I've never had any problems with my heart before," he said.

The father-of-two said despite crossing to the other side for 10 minutes he has no recollection and few lasting effects from his brush with death.

"I'm a little bit slower in doing things like getting my papers together, but other than that – and recovering from my operation – I'm fine," he said. "I'm so lucky my wife was there."

The couple have been married for 41 years.

Mr Liyanage was a prominent candidate in the PCC race, one of only two independents standing.

His previous political career saw him serve as Mayor of Medway in 1999-2000 and as a member of Kent County Council, the old Gillingham Borough Council and Medway Council. He was also a member of the now defunct Kent Police Authority, which was replaced with the new PCC model in November.

He is involved in charity work both locally and in his home country of Sri Lanka. But for the time being he plans to take some time to recover from his ordeal.

"I'm going to take it easy for a while. I do a lot of charity work; I was supposed to be in Sri Lanka now but I didn't go. I'll probably go out in September. I need to have a rest."

FIRST AID

Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) is a first aid technique that can be used if someone is not breathing properly or if their heart has stopped.

Chest compressions and rescue breaths keep blood and oxygen circulating in the body and enhance the chances of survival when medical attention arrives.

If someone is not breathing normally and is not moving or responding to you after an accident, call 999 for an ambulance. Then, if you can, start CPR straight away.

Do you want to learn how to potentially save a life?

Regular first aid courses take place across the county.

Among them are courses by St John Ambulance and the Red Cross. For details see:

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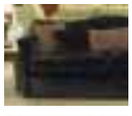
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ENTERTAINMENT

See the Red Arrows

AEROBATIC team the Red Arrows will scorch the skies this summer after organisers of the Folkestone Airshow confirmed they had been added to the bill.

The RAF team will perform its first major display of the year on June 8 and will be among the highlights of the show. It is hoped more than 100,000 will attend.

Other aircraft taking part include the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, comprising a Lancaster, Spitfire and Hurricane; Typhoon Eurofighter; Sea King sea-air search and rescue helicopter and a Tucano trainer in its 2013 colours.

Airshow project manager, Yvonne Holder, said: "It's tremendous news that we shall be seeing the Red Arrows again. They are much in demand – and we are delighted Folkestone is among the venues where they will appear."

HISTORY

Diary reveals nurse's kind gesture as dying soldier given one last kiss

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE poignant details of a World War One soldier's dying wish for a last kiss have emerged in the memoirs of a Deal nurse.

In his last moments after being gassed in the trenches of the Western Front, young Private Charles Kerr's wish was a kiss from the woman who had looked after him in his final days.

Sister Edith Appleton of Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service Reserve gave him two – saying they were a kiss from her and one on behalf of his mother.

Later that day, Private Kerr, aged just 21, drew his last breath and Sister Appleton – then 38 – wrote her account, which now has been edited and published by her nephew Dick Robinson.

He said: "I am immensely proud of what she achieved. I knew her as a child in the 1940s, as a somewhat stern elderly lady running a spartan house. She never spoke about her experience, but these diaries cast a whole new light on her as a younger women."

After working as a clerk at a cotton warehouse, Private Kerr joined the 2nd Manchester Pals and was sent to the trenches of northern France in November 1915.

But four months later he was suffering from pneumonia after being gassed and was moved to a field hospital near Le Havre.

There he was cared for by Sister Appleton, known as Edie, who signed up for military service soon after the war broke out.

In her diaries, she wrote about "my poor little boy Kerr" who spent 15 days "extremely and dangerously ill" before it finally became clear he wouldn't recover.

An entry dated March 13, 1916, reads: "My poor little boy Kerr died yesterday.

"He had been in 15 days suffering from gas, pneumonia, bronchitis and has been extremely and dangerously ill all the time, but only the day before yesterday he realised that he was not going to get well.

"I am glad to say we never left him night or day and he was fond of us all. Yesterday was a difficult day to be 'Sister'. He kept whispering all sorts of messages for home and his fiancée.

"Then he would call 'Sister' and when I bent down to hear – 'I do love you. When I'm gone, will you kiss me?'.

"All the time heads would be popping in 'Sister this and Sister that'. But in spite of all, I did kiss the boy – first for his mother and then for myself – which pleased him."

After he died, she made visits to his graveside to plant primroses.

More than 90 years later, her great-nephew Dick Robinson had the diaries edited and published as War Diaries – A Nurse At The Front, before contacting relatives of her patients.

Among them was Private Kerr's great-great-niece Nicola Mortimer, who found the diary entry online while researching her family history.

The pair met at the Imperial War Museum North in Manchester, where Mr Robinson was giving a talk about the book.

Mrs Mortimer said reading about the care Private Kerr received had been intensely moving.

Picture: DICK ROBINSON

SISTER EDITH WRITES

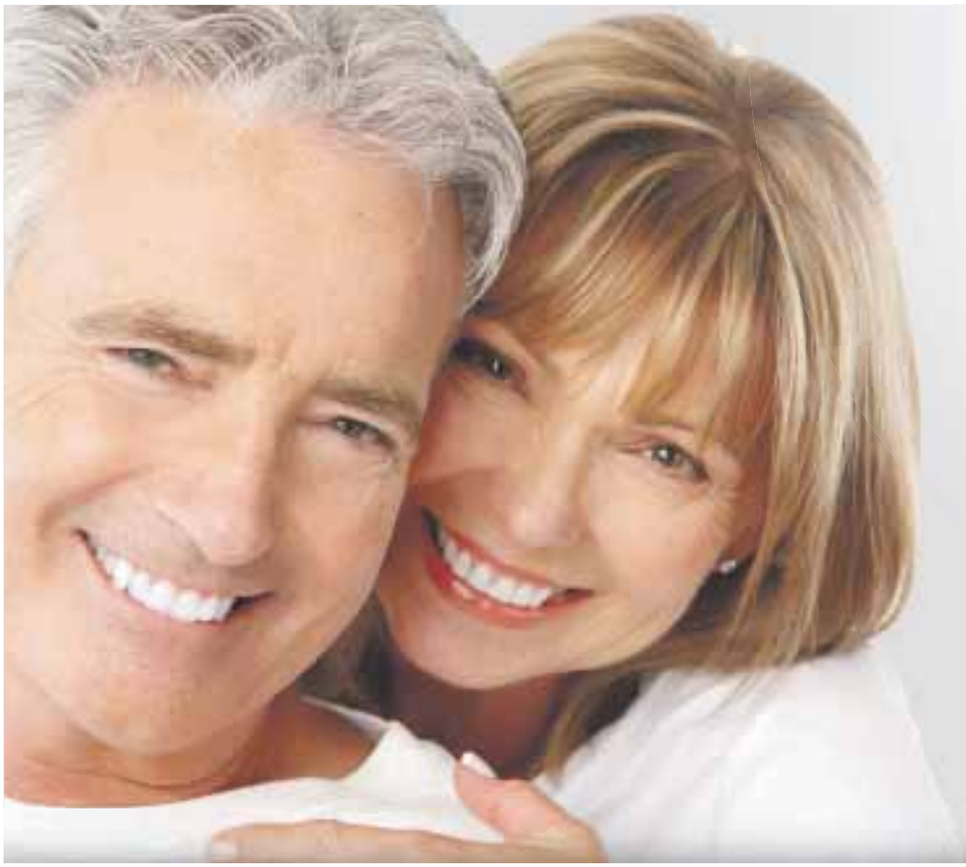
March 6, 1916 Busy day – poor Kerr (pneumonia etc, etc). I am afraid will not weather the storm...
March 8 I am writing to his mother and telling her so, she is evidently a refined old lady – writes back to say she is 'so glad to hear Charlie is with us – the rest and good food will do him good'.
Have my letters not reached her? Or won't she understand that the boy is dying?
March 10 The day was very busy and poor Kerr worse – I am sure that boy has been gassed and will die. Shouldn't be surprised to find his cot empty when I go on duty. Poor mother – how will she take it?
March 12 Too much sadness to write about, besides being dead beat.
March 13 My poor little boy Kerr died yesterday.

"Sister Edith seems like an angel to me," she said. "She never left his side and she even wrote to his mother."

Sister Appleton was awarded a military OBE for her work and died in 1958. Private Kerr's body lies in Etretat cemetery, northern France.

The Imperial War Museum North is hosting an exhibition called Saving Lives about battlefield medicine and care, which runs until September.

The museum's Graham Boxer said: "War and medicine are contradictory. One damages and ends people's lives; the other seeks to find ways to save lives. Yet the challenges of war have contributed to some of the most incredible medical developments of the last hundred years."



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CRIME

Ex-MP tells disgraced Huhne: Prison's tough but not terrible

Keep your head down and make yourself useful, advises ex-con

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FORMER Government minister and Thanet South MP Jonathan Aitken, jailed for perjury 14 years ago, has told shamed Chris Huhne and Vicky Pryce: "Do your bird quietly".

And to help him through his time in prison, the former Conservative politician has sent the shamed former Liberal Democrat minister a copy of his book about life behind bars.

The two have also exchanged letters.

Mr Huhne was jailed for eight months after pleading guilty to perverting the course of justice.

His wife – who he has subsequently divorced – had agreed to take his penalty points on her driving licence following an offence in 2003. She was also jailed for eight months.

Much has been made of the couple's dramatic fall from grace, from power brokers to becoming embroiled in a bitter court case which ultimately ruined the reputations of both.

For Mr Aitken, prison is an experience he is only too familiar with (see box).

"It's a tough experience but not a terrible one," said Mr Aitken after the pair were sent to prison this week. "The first few days in prison are pretty disorientating and disconnecting. It is a cultural world all of its own. But although it is distressing it's tough rather than terrible.

"Contrary to the tabloids, it's usually not dangerous at all. Prison officers run a tight and decent ship and are very careful to make sure nobody is subject to bullying. They cannot ensure this 100 per cent, of course, but generally they do a good job.

"They [Huhne and Pryce] should keep their heads down and keep a low profile, settle down and do their bird quietly, as they say."

Mr Aitken said he wrote to Mr Huhne and received a letter back. He has also sent the former energy minister a copy of his book about his prison experiences, Porridge and Passion.

Mr Aitken, who studied the Christian faith while in Belmarsh Prison, said being useful to other inmates is a way Mr Huhne and his ex-wife Vicky Pryce can help themselves and others.

"There is the opportunity to read and write letters for the largely subliterate prison population," he said. "They can also teach literacy skills under a scheme called Toe to Toe, which has proved very successful.

"Both Vicky Pryce and Chris Huhne enter prison, as I did, at a relatively old age. The average age of a prisoner is 25 and there are many teenagers in prison so they can be very useful as a steadying influence."

PRISON: Former Thanet South MP Jonathan Aitken has offered adviced to Chris Huhne, below

FALL FROM GRACE

Then-Thanet South MP Jonathan Aitken was jailed for 18 months in 1999 for perjury and was the first cabinet minister to have been jailed for more than 100 years.

He resigned as chief secretary to the Treasury so he could sue the Guardian newspaper over allegations that a Saudi businessman had paid for him to stay at the Paris Ritz, in breach of ministerial rules.

Launching the action, he insisted the "simple sword of truth" would ensure that he won.

But in the end, he was convicted of "calculated perjury" and a "gross and inexcusable breach of trust" for asking his daughter Victoria, then 16, to sign a false witness statement on his behalf.

This week Mr Aitken took part in a fundraising event at Annabel's nightclub in London with two former fellow Belmarsh fellow-inmates, Razor Smith, who now edits a newspaper for prisoners and Leroy Skeete.

He said: "Whilst I was in prison I used to get gently teased by people saying I'd forget all about them once I was released, but I have kept in touch with the friends I made.

"When I got married, a journalist uncovered the fact my guests included an equal number of former cabinet ministers and ex-cons; six of each."

Mr Aitken said he feels prison made him a "slightly better person" but added "perhaps that is not for me to say". He added that he found a cell a good place to pray and contemplate the spiritual side of life.

"When I heard what had happened to Chris Huhne it bought back some thoughts," he said. "Largely, how could I have been so stupid – and also how could he be so stupid."

ENVIRONMENT

Town and city make best places to live list

SEVENOAKS and Canterbury have both been named as two of the best places to live in the south east.

They both made a 12-strong shortlist in the Sunday Times Best Places to Live list for the region, which takes into account a host of features, such as transport links, low crime rates, property prices, culture, unemployment figures, and natural beauty.

The full list is: Reigate (Surrey), Sevenoaks, Winchester (Hampshire), Ticehurst (East Sussex), Farnham (Surrey), Chichester (West Sussex), Hart (Hampshire), Beaconsfield (Buckinghamshire), Canterbury, Ascot (Berkshire), Little Berkhamstead (Hertfordshire), and Welwyn Garden City (Hertfordshire).

The full list is in this weekend's newspaper.

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TRIBUTE

Family mourn loss of their 'loving boy' shot dead at home

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

A TEENAGE boy, found shot dead at his family home, has been described by his grieving family as "one in a million".

Charlie Booth, 16, was found at the house in Watling Street, Cobham, last Friday at around 10.30pm. It is believed he shot himself with his father's gun.

Police say they are not treating his death as suspicious but say an investigation continues into how the gun was fired.

It emerged this week a police officer had visited the family home earlier on the Friday in relation to an incident at the house. However, a police spokesman said there was no on-going criminal or pending investigation and the matter had been resolved but 'routinely' referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

Popular Charlie had been a Year 11 pupil at the fee-paying Gad's Hill School – based in the former home of author Charles Dickens in Higham.

This week, as his family – father Nicholas, 52, mother Julia, 48 and sister Harriet, 12 – came to terms with the tragedy, they issued a moving tribute.

It read: "As a son he was a very loving boy who had a supportive family, not just his parents, but his aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents. He thought the world of them and we all thought the world of him.

"He was just a typical country boy who enjoyed school life, loved outdoor pursuits and fully embraced the country lifestyle.

"Charlie was one in a million, very popular and well-liked, and was quite simply our beautiful boy."

Charlie was a keen member of the cadet force and also represented his school at cross-country, rugby and hockey. He had previously played rugby for Gravesend RFC as a young boy and had an interest in cricket.

He had also helped raise several thousand pounds through a number of fundraising events to help pay for a school trip to Alaska in July, which his family said he was looking forward to.

TRAGIC: Charlie Booth, whose death is being investigated, is believed to have shot himself with his father's gun

Headmaster David Craggs said: "Charlie was a remarkable young man, who had such a bright future ahead of him.

"He was a friendly, enthusiastic, mature and self-confident student with so much to live for – attributes that make this tragedy even more difficult to comprehend.

"His loss leaves his family, our school and the wider Gad's community in mourning and struggling to make sense of what has unfolded.

"Charlie's legacy will live on in our fond memories of him and in the eternal love of his family. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his friends."

CRIME

Attend PCC questions

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes will hold a question time session with the county's Chief Constable this week.

The 'governance board' meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 20, at Kent Police headquarters in Maidstone. Members of the public are welcome to attend in a non-participating role. To attend, call 01622 677055.

FIRE

Washer sparks blaze

A FAULTY washing machine is being blamed for a fire which was sparked at a home in Gravesend on Wednesday morning.

The couple at the property in Clarence Place were able to escape to safety after smoke alarms were triggered.

It is thought an electrical fault with the washing machine was responsible.

CARE

Bowling up a fundraiser

RESIDENTS of a care home in Tunbridge Wells have raised more than £300 after they all went ten pin bowling.

The OAPs were raising money for their amenity fund at the not-for-profit Mount Ephraim House care home at the Bowlplex venue in Knights Park. Money raised will help fund other events for those living at the home.

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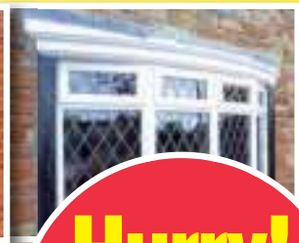

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HISTORY

Was real Robin Hood from spa town?

Nick Ames investigates theory the legendary outlaw actually came from a tiny hamlet in the Weald

ROBIN Hood may by synonymous with Sherwood Forest, but according to one historian the real-life character on which the legend could be based may be far closer to home.

Because this week it emerged England's most famous outlaw may have been from Tunbridge Wells.

And rather than Sherwood Forest, it was the Weald in which he took on the rich and powerful in medieval times.

The claims were made by historian Sean McGlynn who says Robin may have been William of Kensham.

Kensham is a tiny hamlet between Rolvenden and Sandhurst.

According to Mr McGlynn, William conducted a guerrilla war against the French forces of Prince Louis who invaded England in 1216.

Mr McGlynn suggests William led a band of archers who attacked the French in the forests which dominated the Weald. The little-known French occupation lasted around 18 months before it was finaly thwarted.

He said: "It's hard to find another contender for the Robin Hood story from this age or afterwards who is both a hero and an outlaw.

"In William we have both: a feted resistance fighter, loyally protecting the crown, but also, from Louis' perspective, an egregious outlaw defying the rule of the imposed new regime."

William used the alias 'Willikin of the Weald' according to the research.

Mr McGlynn has spent many hours poring over medieval documents for his new book Blood Cries Afar.

He discovered William was involved in daring ambushes against an invading force. He and his band of 1,000 men had fled to the Kentish Weald forests after the French came to southern England at the invitation of barons opposing King John.

William and his men were skilled at raiding the French forces and may have returned stolen property to locals, giving rise to the robbing the rich to give to the poor story.

The academic believes William did visit Nottingham, which adopted the much-loved hero and ever since has been associated with him.

Mr McGlynn says: "If you want to find the source of the Robin Hood stories it's most likely to be William. We don't find anyone else who comes remotely close. Yes, he was serving bad King John, but the key thing is he was fighting the French. He was an English freedom fighter." He added that William was living at the same time the Robin Hood legend emerged whereas other claimants to the title came much later so they can be dismissed as imposters.

And according to research, like Robin of legend, William was proficient with the longbow.

But Mr McGlynn added that William could only be one of many inspirations for the famous story.

"The most probable truth behind the Robin Hood legend is that over time storytellers incorporated and conflated various characters from a range of stories and settled on the instantly recognisable name of Robin Hood as the woodsman," he said.

Angus Donald is a best-selling novelist who has written about Robin Hood in his series The Outlaw Chronicles, with three short stories coming out on ebooks this month and a novel called Grail Knight out in the summer.

He lives in Tonbridge and says he was fascinated when he heard the new theory.

"I think it's a lovely idea," he said. "But I feel Willikin of the Weald is a separate legend and Robin's true roots lie in Nottinghamshire and Yorkshire."

A STARRING ROLE FOR ENGLISH HISTORY'S LOVEABLE ROGUE

ROBIN Hood is one of English history's most famous figures and is usually portrayed as fighting the Norman lords of England during the reign of King Richard I.

Hiding in Sherwood Forest, it is claimed he robbed from the rich and gave to the poor with his principal opponent the Sheriff of Nottingham.

He became a popular folk figure in the medieval period continuing through to modern literature, films and television.

Among the first mention of him is in a 15th century rhyme which starts: "Robyn hode in scherewode stod."

Records show a man named Robin Hood lived in Wakefield, Yorkshire, in the 13th and 14th centuries, but it is possible that the name is a generic one for outlaws.

In popular culture his exploits have been portrayed on film by many famous actors including Errol Flynn, Russell Crowe and Kevin Costner.

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IMMIGRATION

Carter on the warpath in row over cost of paying for vulnerable youngsters

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall leader Paul Carter has demanded the Home Office "deport or support" vulnerable young asylum seekers who have been refused the right to stay in the UK, to ease the mounting burden on Kent's taxpayers.

He says those waiting to be deported, aged 18 and above, are currently being helped by Kent County Council while the Government simply turns its back and refuses to offer any financial support.

In a report due to go to cabinet on Monday, KCC lays the blame at the door of UK Border Agency (UKBA) which it claims is "completely lacking" any regard for the welfare of these youngsters once they become 18. Prior to this age, any care costs accrued in Kent can be claimed back from central Government.

But in Appeals Rights Exhausted (ARE) cases – young people who have been refused asylum in Britain and are aged 18 – it falls on the shoulders of KCC to offer support.

That means the £1.5 million annual bill falls on the Kent taxpayer, with the Home Office – the Government department in charge of UKBA – refusing to help.

There are currently 117 young people in Kent classed as ARE.

Cllr Carter said: "This has been going on for years and my patience is being stretched.

"There is a conflict between childcare and immigration legislation. Under the Children's Act we have an obligation to support these young people, but the Home Office seems to think the support should just stop once they reach 18 and have been refused asylum, and they can just disappear into the ether.

"With no support or funding, there is the risk of these young people becoming destitute, ending up on the streets and turning to crime because they have no other choice.

"As a gateway authority we have been supporting them for years to make sure this doesn't happen but we get no funding from the Home Office. It's their responsibility to deport these young people, a process which should take five to six months but in some cases is taking years.

"They need to speed this up. I'm saying to the Home Office 'support or deport'. I'm standing up for these young people and the Kent taxpayer, why should they pay the bill?"

Often unaccompanied child asylum seekers refused the right to stay in the UK are allowed to remain until the age of 17 and a half, at which point they can make two further appeal applications.

If unsuccessful, they are not entitled to any benefits or access to public funds while they wait for deportation, at which point the Home Office stops reimbursing funds to KCC who pays out for support, such as foster care.

If KCC was to cut off support at 18, many could end up turning to a life of crime which would cause problems in Kent's communities.

They would also be at risk of exploitation by criminal gangs or ending up on the streets.

A UKBA spokeswoman said the agency had offered to work with the council to resolve the issue.

"Where adults have been refused asylum, they should leave the UK or face removal. In a small number of cases, failed asylum seekers who cannot return home through no fault of their own can receive support to ensure they are not left homeless or without the means to meet their living expenses.

"By routinely providing financial support to failed asylum seekers aged 18 and over KCC is incurring unnecessary costs."

PHOTOGRAPHY

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TRAVEL

Roads setback as latest big freeze creates potholes as fast as they're being repaired

By Marijke Cox
marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE ongoing nightmare of potholes on our roads looks set to continue following the Arctic blast which swept through the county this week.

Just as Kent Highways, part of the county council, was beginning to make some headway in tackling the thousands of potholes, freezing conditions – unusual for this time of year – descended.

Potholes are formed by water penetrating the road surface through cracks caused by traffic.

When the temperature plunges to freezing or below, the water freezes, expands and ruptures the surface.

Once the ice has melted, it leaves a crack in the surface which is made worse by vehicles driving over it, eventually forming a pothole.

Thousands have been fixed in the past year, with 2,000 in the four weeks of February alone, and an extra £1.15 million invested in tackling the problem. But the freezing weather is likely to cause a setback.

It comes following the launch of the Find and Fix 2013 campaign, where road crews tackle every fault they find, not just those deemed unsafe.

A Kent County Council spokeswoman said the gangs are carrying out up to six times the amount of work they usually would.

She said: "Our teams are fixing potholes in an average of 14 days at the moment, almost half the time taken to fix a pothole in 2011, and that's from the moment we are made aware of a pothole up until the point it is fixed."

Faults, she said, are assessed in terms of the risk they pose to safety, taking into account position in the road, traffic levels and size.

She explained: "Our usual policy with potholes is those that are less than 100mm in diameter will be repaired within 28 days.

"Larger faults, or those in a main road or heavy traffic, or ones that could cause danger to people or property, will be treated as an emergency and fixed within 24 hours.

"Our crews will make a permanent fix to a pothole where they can. If the pothole is an emergency and in a dangerous location, it may be temporarily filled to make it safe and then a permanent fill will be carried out as soon as it is safe to do so."

An average pothole costs KCC £23 to fix and in recent years millions of pounds of investment has been pumped into trying to sort out the almost never ending problem.

KCC cabinet member for highways, Bryan Sweetland, said the county has crews who work extremely hard to keep the roads in the best possible condition.

"They fix potholes quickly and efficiently and the staggering improvement in the time it has taken them to fix potholes is a real testament to this," he said.

"We know that the condition of our roads is a priority for the residents of Kent, which is why we have decided to invest an extra £1.15m funding in our roads – on top of our existing investment – to help keep us ahead in the battle against potholes and keep Kent moving."

Medway Council said its highways team deals with all defects on the area's roads.

"There is a rolling programme of safety inspections," said a spokeswoman. "The council also responds to enquiries from members of the public.

"All identified defects are assessed and orders placed for repair. Works are prioritised on the assessment made by the Highway Inspector. High priority issues can be made safe within two hours by the council's contractor."

Residents can follow the progress of a repair when they report a fault at www.kent.gov.uk/highways or call 08458 247 800.

'AN EFFECTIVE FIX IS NEEDED'

Kent spokesman for the Alliance of British Drivers, Ian Taylor, said Kent County Council needed to deal with the problem quickly and effectively.

"We recognise that the weather we've had this winter places a great strain on Kent Highways," he said. "We can't expect them to work miracles. Having said that, we wish they would make sure that when they make repairs they don't just do a patch up job as this doesn't last.

"All we can ask is they do the best that they can, that they get the level of investment right and fix them quickly and, just as importantly, effectively."

SPORT

Club fury at 'racist' insult hurled at ice hockey star

A GILLINGHAM ice hockey team has called for 'disgusting' racist behaviour from rival fans to be stamped out after a toy gorilla was thrown at one of its players.

The Invicta Dynamos, the county's premier ice hockey outfit, played Essex rivals the Romford Raiders last weekend.

But during the away match, when a fight between two players erupted – as is normal in the game – a fan threw a toy gorilla onto the ice at mixed race Dynamos' player Nathaniel Rose.

It sparked outrage from coach Kevin Parrish, who demanded that governing body the English National Ice Hockey Association take a stand against it.

The Dynamos had problems at the Raiders' Rom Valley Way stadium earlier this season when the team's bench was threatened by boisterous home fans.

"The league needs to jump on this as quickly as possible," said Mr Parrish. "This is a family sport. It's disgusting. It's awful.

"I have been in ice hockey for 20 years and never seen anything like that. It's not the first time we have had threatening behaviour at Romford. What happens on the ice should stay on the ice.

"I tried to get the referee's attention to see what had been thrown. But he told me he could not do anything about it. The owners saw what was thrown, but couldn't see where it had come from. Nothing was done."

He said Rose, who joined the club in the summer, laughed it off after the game.

"He's been called some names before," said Parrish. "I guess it's something he's got used to."

UNACCEPTABLE: Nathaniel Rose, right, was the victim of racism by fans during a scrap on the ice

A spokesman for the English National Ice Hockey Association said: "All such incidents are investigated by the association. Where a club or individual is in breach of the rules, appropriate action will be taken and any such action would be notified to both clubs."

Romford Raiders declined to comment.

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WEATHER

The day the roads stood still

Joe Bill on the fallout of this week's sudden return to an icy winter

JOURNEY FROM HELL

What should have been a 45-minute journey home for unlucky motorist Dave Hobday turned into a nightmare as he became one of the victims of Monday night's road chaos, spending 10 hours stuck in his car.

He set out on his normal journey home to Ramsgate from his work in Sellindge, near Ashford – a 35 mile trip – unaware he was starting what was to become the worst driving experience of his life.

As the snow swept in and the roads became ice rinks, Mr Hobday, 48, found himself in gridlock with other motorists and his journey turned into a 10-hour marathon.

"I left to take the usual route home past Folkestone. Arriving at the Cheriton roundabout there was just no movement. Everything had ground to a halt," he said.

"So I decided to turn around and try to get back through the Stone Street way. I got to the winding hill at the bottom of Stone Street and people were struggling to get up it. There were cars stuck on the hill. There was just no grip to get to the top.

"Eventually I decided to go back the other way again and coming back down the hill I had to drive into the verge at the side just to slow myself down."

Mr Hobday returned to the Folkestone route of the M20 only to be stuck once again as he headed towards Dover.

He said: "Lots of people had got out of their cars and just started walking. There were snow drifts building up behind the vehicles as well. Eventually I ended up getting stuck inside the Roundhill Tunnel which wasn't too bad, at least it wasn't snowing."

After a staggering 10 hours of waiting, Mr Hobday finally got free of the traffic and had a clear run through Dover and, finally, to his home.

"I didn't see any gritters until I got into Dover where I saw four on the same stretch of road, like the proverbial buses," he said.

"I was listening to the radio and you could hear some of the motorists phoning in starting to panic and you start to wonder if you will ever get home. It was easily the worst driving experience of my life."

HOPES of spring and the arrival of warmer climes were dashed this week as the county was plunged back into winter with freezing temperatures and huge snow drifts causing widespread chaos.

Despite Met Office warnings, council chiefs in both Kent and Medway seemed to be caught unawares by the weather change, with major roads and motorways grinding to a halt in the heavy snowfall.

Fingers are now being pointed at who the blame should lie with, particularly as highways chiefs were seen patting themselves on the back last year at how prepared they were for the winter, with an army of gritters and tractors on standby to tackle any problems. On Monday night, however, those gritters seemed few and far between.

Scenes of chaos were seen across the county – particularly in Dover and Folkestone on the M20 and A20 – with some motorists forced to spend most of the night in their cars, trapped on gridlocked highways as the snow continued to fall.

Others ditched their vehicles and trekked through the snow to get home.

On Lympne Hill, Hythe, there were more than 30 abandoned cars alone.

But County Hall chiefs have defended accusations of being unprepared, claiming all 60 of their gritters were out in force to combat the conditions and that they continued to patrol throughout the blizzard.

Kent County Council highways and transportation chief, John Burr, said: "We treated all our primary and secondary routes – which cover 2,500 miles of road in Kent.

"We mobilised JCB diggers to clear drifts and our army of farmers were helping us to clear important back roads and rural routes.

"We also had hand crews in town centres salting the pavements to help keep them clear."

KCC claimed that the number of abandoned cars and lorries during peak times made it difficult for the gritters to gain access to the roads.

"Our gritting crews did the best they could in the gruelling conditions," Mr Burr added.

The M20 was particularly badly hit, with the coastbound section by junction 11, near Folkestone, shut on Monday night and Tuesday morning and queues stretching back miles.

While the bad weather started to clear later on Tuesday, poor conditions in northern France and Belgium meant cross-Channel services were disrupted and Operation Stack was put in place coastbound between junctions eight and nine, Hollingbourne and Ashford, and eventually stood down on Thursday.

BLIZZARD: Snowfall made conditions dangerous

During the Arctic weather, Medway also saw problems, including lane closures on Blue Bell Hill due to a pile-up and drivers reporting treacherous conditions across the area.

Medway Council also came under fire for its apparent lack of weather precautions.

But a spokesman claimed that all eight of their gritter lorries were patrolling the streets.

He said: "High, blustery north easterly winds, below-zero temperatures, which had frozen road surfaces, and continuous snow overnight made it difficult, with new snow settling on top of grit and ice. Grit needs to be worked into the snow and ice by vehicles driving over it to take effect, so this made the gritting teams' work extremely difficult."

Kent Police received hundreds of calls from motorists reporting crashes and abandoned vehicles.

In one incident on the A2 at Lydden, near Dover, more than 100 people were stuck for four hours after a jack-knifed lorry blocked the road, with a metre high drift of snow building up behind it.

Chief Insp Kay Maynard said: "We know how difficult it was for many people who felt stranded in their vehicles.

"The volume of snow and the drifting caused in exposed areas was a major issue. As soon as roads were cleared and gritted, they were becoming covered in snow again."

The conditions were in stark contrast to the same time last year, when temperatures were as high as 16 degrees Celsius.

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TOURISM

Thousands flock to get inspired at the Travel & Leisure Show as the organisers hail it a great success

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

ORGANISERS of the county's premier tourism event – the Travel & Leisure Show – have hailed it a great success after thousands flocked to the extravaganza last weekend.

Some 2,000 people attended the event at the Dover Cruise Terminal last Saturday.

The show featured a host of tourism opportunities locally, nationally and internationally, with stallholders reporting brisk business throughout the day.

The event highlighted the historical and heritage attractions of Kent, the rest of south east England and northern France, food from the region, the culinary delights to be found across the Channel and major events taking place throughout 2013.

Organised by Archant KOS Media, publishers of this newspaper, event organiser Debbie Macleod said: "We had very good feedback from the exhibitors, who were pleased to see the level of interest shown by those who came along.

"They were also happy that the visitors seemed to be people with a budget to spend on days out and holidays. Our French clients were very pleased as well."

The War and Peace Revival Show, which takes place in July at Folkestone racecourse, parked a large tank outside the venue to entertain the crowds.

EXHIBITORS: Clockwise from left: Kent Surf School, Heritage events and Tonbridge Castle were among the many attractions hosting stands at the top tourism show in Dover

FOOD

Fears asparagus harvest will be speared by winter's return

By Joe Bill
joe.bill@archant.co.uk

ASPARAGUS producers are nervously waiting to see what impact this week's cold snap has had on their annual harvest.

The season is traditionally one of the more short-lived on the food calendar, with farmers having just an eight week window to capitalise on their crop. But this week's snow and ice has hit the harvest, and unless warmer weather arrives soon, it could devastate the crop.

David Bradley, owner of Selson Farm, near Sandwich, produces asparagus for many stores and restaurants.

He said: "Asparagus is completely dependent on temperature. A cold winter is not a bad thing. Perennial crops like asparagus don't mind a cold or a wet winter because they are in dormancy and they're just preparing themselves for the coming season.

"But what we want is it to be seasonal, so once we get into April we need it to be warm. Spring showers to keep the ground moist, but sunny days to warm the soil up."

SUPERFAST GROWING SPEARS

Kent has become a bastion of British asparagus with its normal climate suiting the crop's growing patterns, with perfect conditions meaning an asparagus spear can grow more than 20cm in 24 hours.

David Bradley from Selson Farm added: "Our climate is good and suits the crops we have.

"Being in the east, we are a very dry county so when you are growing things like asparagus, apples and pears, you need less rainfall and more sunshine, so we usually have that advantage in Kent.

"If you have a warm night, you can come out onto the field the next day and there will be asparagus everywhere. You have cold weather and, well, nothing."

The cutting season normally runs from the last week in April to mid June, but the current cold snap could play havoc with the timings.

He adds: "It's not yet an issue but as we move towards April we need the warmth.

"Last year was horrendous. It was very warm in March and the asparagus started moving and appearing earlier than you might expect. Then it went cold and we had really damp weather with low temperatures and low sunlight levels. Asparagus hated it and didn't grow. It just wasn't normal weather for that time of year."

Selson Farm sits on the eastern edge of the North Downs, holding 45 acres of apples, pears, cherries and asparagus, with another 25 acres let out for growing cereals.

Kentish asparagus is reknowned around the UK with much of it transported to the capital.

Mr Bradley said: "Historically, before modern transport, it needed to be grown close to its market, so it's no good growing cherries in Yorkshire because you wouldn't get them down to London in time. The potential is still there to have a good season but we need a warm spring."

Asparagus is often referred to as being a "super veg" because of its high nutrient content as it contains vitamins A, B and C and is full of fibre and folic acid – which is said to be good for you heart and boosting your immune system.

A spokesman for the British Asparagus group said: "Asparagus is actually quite difficult to grow and time intensive too.

"It has to be planted for three years before it yields any spears and it all has to be cut by hand – no machine is precise enough to select just the spears that are ready to be cut."

FARMER: David Bradley is concerned for the fate of his asparagus crop

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Please Note: Library Photographs may have been used in this advertisement, merely to depict the make or model of home for sale.

Thornlea Park £84,950
Littlehampton, West Sussex BN17 7QS

38' x 10' New Tingdene Single
This new home with open plan aspect, bright fitted kitchen with integrated appliances has two bedrooms, a single and double both have fitted wardrobes. Cosy lounge with feature fireplace to one wall.

Allhallows Park £182,500
Rochester, Kent, ME3 9TD

44' x 22' Pathfinder Regency Spec.
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Hedge Barton Park

Chafford Lane, Fordcombe, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN3 0SL

Initially an orchard, hedge Barton Park has many lovely landscaped lawns and gardens, all set in luscious Kent scenery. This beautiful countryside park is wonderfully peaceful, while not being too far from the amenities of nearby Fordcombe village and larger Royal Tunbridge Wells. Surrounded by mature trees and countryside, it is one of the prettiest parks in the region.

Thornlea Park

Lyminster Road, Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 7QS

Clean air, the sea just over the horizon and a wonderfully relaxed South Coast pace of life all combine to make Thornlea Park an excellent place to retire. Only a few miles from the seaside, and close to the amenities of nearby Wick, the park is superbly located in velvet West Sussex countryside. A stylish landscape entrance, flint walls and wrought iron electric gates enhance the element of a safe and secure living.

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Littlehampton, West Sussex, BN17 7QS

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BENEFITS

Charity says some 17,000 will be hit by 'bedroom tax'

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHAT has been dubbed 'bedroom tax' is set to come in to force next month – and could spell financial hardship for thousands across the county, warn critics.

But it could also benefit the 35,000 on a waiting list for a house.

The plan is to cut benefit to those people of working age who rent a home from their local council or housing association if they are deemed to have too many bedrooms for their immediate needs.

It is part of the government's hard-hitting assault on the nation's annual welfare bill and it's hoped it will save half a billion pounds a year.

Benefits will be cut by 14 per cent for those said to have one extra bedroom, and 25 per cent for those with two.

Those affected will lose an average of £14 a week, with housing association tenants expected to lose £16 a week on average.

Homelessness charity Porchlight says 17,000 in Kent alone will be hit, among them separated parents who share the care of their children; people with mental health issues and disabled people who have their home specially adapted for their needs.

Chief executive Mike Barrett warns: "These aren't families or individuals living a life of luxury.

"They are normal households who are struggling to make ends meet. If something isn't done now to stop this policy then we are certain to see people facing rent arrears and eventually eviction."

But work and pensions secretary Iain Duncan Smith said: "When 35,187 households are stuck on a waiting list for social housing in Kent, there's a big problem that needs addressing.

"There's nothing fair about making families wait and wait for a house that is big enough, while other households on benefits are allowed to live in homes that are too big for their needs, at no extra cost."

SUCCESS

Winners are cream of the crop

WINNERS of the recent Taste of Kent Awards proudly display their trophies after emerging as the Garden of England's finest food producers.

Organised by Produced in Kent, we revealed the full list of winners last week – highlights included three awards for Dargate-based The Cheesemakers of Canterbury, and the coveted Best Restaurant Award for Margate's The Ambrette.

■ To read the full results, you can access back issues of KoS, for free, by visiting our website at www.kentnews.co.uk and clicking on the front cover of the newspaper e-edition.

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KENT **REMEMBERED**

Digging into mystery surrounding Roman villa's powerful owner

By Chris Murphy
editorial@archant.co.uk

IT HAS been the subject of at least three digs over the last 100 years and continues to slowly give up its secrets.

But who originally commissioned and lived in an ornate Roman villa in Folkestone continues to baffle archaeologists to this day.

However, work has unearthed a host of discoveries which continue to enthrall those who follow its progress.

So important has the dig become, it recently picked up a major national award, with judges for the Current Archaeology Magazine voting it Rescue Dig of the Year.

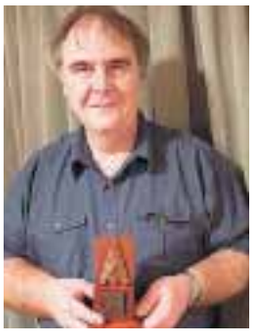
This means the dig is under threat by human or natural agencies. In this case the sea, as parts of the East Cliff are being lost to erosion, with some of the villa already lost.

The original villa dates back to the first century AD after the arrival of the Romans in AD43.

During the late second century the villa was pulled down and rebuilt. Its replacement was far more substantial with an impressive 54 rooms, implying it was home to a top Roman official or important landowner.

However, despite the remarkable discovery, the identity of the original occupier remains a mystery. It has not been for want of trying, either.

The current work represents the third major excavation of the site. First discovered in 1924 by SE Winbolt, it was partially re-excavated in 1989.



SUCCESS: Archaeologist Keith Parfitt with the recent award

Recent digs have unearthed what is thought to be an entire community connected to it.

It is felt that because of its position at the end of the North Downs, it was in an ideal location for an international trade route. At least that is the theory of Nick Spurrier from the Canterbury Archaeological Trust.

He said: "Work has gone a long way to open our eyes to what life was like in this region. More bags of tiles have been recovered that add a little more mystery to what was here."

Keith Parfitt, also from the trust, added: "So who owned the villa? Winbolt recovered seven tiles stamped CLBR, the mark of Classis Britannica, the Roman fleet in British waters.

"Their discovery led him to suggest the villa represented the official residence of the Admiral of the Fleet, overlooking the Channel. This theory was widely accepted, but there is little new evidence from present excavations to support it.

"Only one additional CLBR stamp has been found, in Winbolt's backfill. It's time to reconsider this issue and start proposing alternatives, particularly how the villa complex might have developed from the preceding Iron Age settlement."

Mr Parfitt says it is now apparent that for about 100 years before the Romans arrived, the site was occupied by a much larger settlement.

Indeed, this may have been the original site of Folkestone. With the discovery of hundreds of quern stones - used for grinding corn - at the site and on the beach, it is now evident their manufacture was a primary industry and may even have given rise to the name Folke Stone.

He said: "The area occupied clearly extended beyond the villa and probably covers two or three acres, in addition to whatever has been lost to the sea. On the basis of the quantity of coins and range of imported pottery, we believe East Wear Bay must have functioned as a late Iron Age trading port, at the shortest sea crossing of the Channel."

Finds include pottery from the Continent, including terra nigra, which is black, terra rubra, which is red, butt beakers, and more importantly Dressel 1 amphorae – three foot tall carrot shaped vessels for wine.

Mr Parfitt added: "It does not seem an exaggeration to cast East Wear Bay at Folkestone as the Kentish equivalent of the famous Hengistbury Head Iron Age trading port in Dorset.

"The award shows our efforts have not gone unnoticed."

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OPINION

Handicapped by ignorance

Leading disabled rights activist **Sue Groves** MBE, from Chatham, debates the challenges facing society's approach to those physically impaired...

I AM often made to feel that as a disabled person it is I who needs to be adapted to manage in society or, even better, cured.

However, I prefer to see myself in a different way.

I have an impairment – yes – but I am only disabled by the physical and social barriers that prevent me from doing the things that people without impairments do every day.

Impairment and disability are two very different things to me.

My impairment is the loss or limitation of physical, mental or sensory function which affects me on a day-to-day basis and will stay with me for the rest of my life.

Disability is the loss or limitation of opportunities to take part in the normal life of the community on an equal level with others, due to physical and social barriers.

Impairment and chronic illness exist and sometimes pose real difficulties.

The disability I experience has little to do with my impairment. I have often been made to feel it's my fault I am different.

If some part, or parts, of my body or mind are limited in their functioning, this is simply an impairment – it doesn't make me any less human.

I believe in the social models approach, in that disabled people's disadvantage is due to a complex form of institutional discrimination, as fundamental to society as sexism, racism or homophobia.

The key to this problem of disability lies in changing society, the way we think and the way we communicate.

Publicly challenging these attitudes has led me to work on various groups, both locally and nationally, and through this work we have seen some very positive changes coming about.

While I am not a member of any political party, I have been working with Medway Labour Group to improve council consultation with disabled residents.

Medway Council seems to be very hit-and-miss on this and all too often accessibility has been overlooked and subsequently reduced following redevelopment.

For example, the improvements to Gillingham railway station have left wheelchair users like me with nowhere close by to drop off meaning we now have to risk the anger from taxi drivers for using their rank which has been extended, risk a parking fine or both.

Another example is the design of the much hailed dynamic bus facility at Chatham, with its complete lack of shelter from the elements and toilet facilities in the evening.

Buses often cannot get low enough for my chair to negotiate the step onto them from the raised kerb, and the list goes on.

The key to this problem of disability lies in changing society, the way we think

Last year, Medway Council agreed cross-party backing for the formation of an umbrella group – Medway Disabled Residents' Forum – that will have full council support and be a mechanism to ensure consultation across all disability strands on anything that may affect them.

This will give the disabled residents a much stronger voice to challenge policy changes that have a direct effect on them.

However, the lack of progress on this since that meeting is somewhat disappointing and leads me to question the resolve of the council to actively engage with its disabled residents in a positive way.

There are already in existance similar very effective forums for ethnic minority residents and for pensioners, it is time the disabled residents had a voice too.

KOS COMMENT

We need college to be top of its class again

IN TODAY's challenging economy, the need to develop a well-trained, well-educated work force for the future is more important than ever.

And while much focus is devoted to universities and schools, the vital role of the further education (FE) college – and the challenges it faces – can very often go overlooked.

That is, of course, until something of the size and scale of K College's collapse occurs and suddenly it's headline news again.

The county needs K College – and all the other FE sites we boast – to be firing on all cylinders; to be inspiring our next generation to learn a trade and/or secure good exams. Let us hope lessons have been learned.

It really is snow joke

AFTER all the back-slapping of a job well done earlier this year, the return of snow in some parts of the county revealed we still don't have a tried and tested method in place to prevent travel chaos.

Of course, snow will always disrupt, but to the extent motorists were stranded? Can we ever get it right?

Feedback

Letters/emails/twitter

Weather vane at sunset
Leysdown-on-Sea, by Gary Foord, from Rainham

IMAGES OF KENT

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Feeding their basic instinct

I WAS intrigued to learn that Vivien Clifford does not believe in fox attacks (KoS, March 9).

If babies are attacked by foxes (and they have been) it is bound to make the news.

It is not evidence there is a conspiracy afoot to demonise foxes in order to repeal the Hunting Act.

Foxes are born survivors. They are not domestic pets, there is no need to put food out especially at a time when the number of foxes in urban areas appears to be growing rapidly.

I wonder what Vivien Clifford's neighbours think of her practice of putting food out for these wild creatures .

Michael Charles, by email

Foxes coming home to roost

CARE needs to be taken where foxes are concerned.

What is unusual about a fox – which makes its nature close to some humans – is that it will kill unnecessarily.

I remember when my neighbour had chicken runs.

At first, before action was taken to stop the fox digging, the fox would dig under the compound to get in and kill every chicken in the run.

So care needs to be taken with foxes becoming more urbanised.

A baby is a small, edible, animal to a wild, meat eater.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Going down wrong tracks

THERE have been reports recently of an increase in the number of foxes seen roaming around suburban districts.

Is this really so surprising?

Network Rail is systematically destroying the areas these foxes and other native wildlife call home.

In built-up areas there is nowhere for foxes to go so they become a nuisance.

Foxes can consume large numbers of rodents and rabbits as part of their natural diet, but in towns we know they also scavenge for leftover food.

In her letter to KoS, Vivien Clifford is doubtful about the alleged attack on a baby by a fox which, if true, is certainly unusual and very distressing.

There are hundreds of incidents of dogs attacking children and no-one is asking for a cull on dogs.

If we continue to regard foxes, badgers, pigeons, squirrels, seagulls, magpies, rabbits and moles as pests to be destroyed, what wildlife will we have left in this country?

For our own benefit, and for the benefit of future generations, we need to be more mindful of protecting wildlife habitats rather than destroying them and upsetting the balance of nature.

CB Walker, Whitstable

Kerb shared space plans

FURTHER to your recent report on shared space, your reporter writes about the stupid plan of traffic and pedestrians sharing the road space, and the fact they will share equal priority.

He then says drivers are expected to give way.

So where is there any equality? Looks more like the usual all-out war on motorists.

When Ashford started this stupid idea both my wife and myself immediately stopped all visits to the town – far too high a risk of an accident.

We all know if someone busy texting walks out in front of a vehicle and gets knocked down, it will be the driver who will be arrested and blamed.

Councils of old knew about safety; they built roads, kerbs and pavements.

Can that idea be faulted?

David Harris, Cliftonville

Every little not such a help...

TESCO has finally made its long-awaited intention known (after years of speculation) of putting on hold the proposed construction of a flagship shop in Strood, that was also set to include a library.

Which means it is highly unlikely to go ahead.

Being an ambitious project that looked to revamp and reposition Strood and indeed Medway on the map, the council approved the plan with the hope that Tesco, being a giant superstore, would deliver.

The pomp and pageantry which followed had scarcely died before the speculation Tesco might drop the project started filtering through.

The reason was firstly the council approved a planning application for Morrison to build a superstore in their current location and, secondly, the council also approved a planning application for Aldi which has completed and opened its store in record time.

Rather than expand and compete with these other superstores, Tesco chose an alternative option and converted a former pub in Darnley Road into what they call Tesco Express.

They supported this poor idea by claiming "we are providing jobs for the local community". But they forgot many local shops were already serving that local community.

Our problem is that the council produced a plan for Strood town centre with the key being that Tesco would deliver infrastructure like highways and a library worth around £1 million to residents.

With Tesco placing their construction on hold this puts the future for Strood in jeopardy.

Cllrs Isaac Igwe & Stephen Hubbard (Labour), Strood

Become one of Demelza's 101

I'VE spent my life on two blades on the ice, but now I'm taking to two wheels to ask you to sign up to a challenge set by a charity I am very proud to support.

As a vice-president of Demelza, I've seen firsthand the difference this incredible place makes to sick children and their families.

As part of Demelza's 15-year celebrations I'm delighted to announce an exciting challenge, which offers 100 people the chance to cycle from the Sittingbourne hospice to Paris in April 2014.

Since launching this event we've already had 30 people signed up so just another 70 people are needed to make up Demelza 101 – 100 riders for one cause.

Demelza 101 aims to raise £100,000, which could pay for three nurses to help give one-on-one care to children with life limiting or life-threatening conditions.

Or it could pay for a week's hospice care at our hospice in Kent, a week's care at our hospice in South East London and a week's care in the community in East Sussex, giving families a chance for a real break.

For more information go to www.demelza.org.uk or email emma.austen@demelza.org.uk

Robin Cousins, vice-president, Demelza Hospice Care for Children

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CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759**

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915**

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067**

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774**

JACKIE busty blonde, husband away seeks no strings fun. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400453**

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899**

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751**

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101**

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093**

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071**

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011**

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993**

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTM n/s genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799**

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTM loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787**

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779**

LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773**

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765**

52YR old female, single mum of 2, seeking honest, caring, decent man. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389891**

SUSIE young 55, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest guy from Medway towns. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389027**

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421**

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523**

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273**

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382**

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067**

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333**

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287**

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521**

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329**

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MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248**

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189**

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843**

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515**

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195**

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391**

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230**

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797**

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365**

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065**

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127**

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095**

ANNETTE 58, 5ft 1ins, cuddly, affectionate, likes animals, seeks kind, gentleman to share life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394923**

LOUISE loving, caring, thoughtful lady, likes photography, countryside, animals, seeks mature, N/S, genuine, caring, N/S gent with car to settle down with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397239**

45YR old female, 5ft 5ins, brown hair, cuddly, curvaceous, love animals, music, sports, seeks kind, caring, sincere, mature male, 40 plus with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 381319**

PAT widowed mid 60's blonde female, loves dancing, happy-go-lucky WLTM similar aged nice male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389195**

FEMALE 21, brown eyes, loving, looking for male, 20-30 for nights in and loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396057**

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211**

FOLKESTONE lady, 58, 5ft 1ins, animal lover, cuddly, affectionate, GSOH, seeks male, 58-63 to enjoy life with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395551**

SUE 54, fairly slim, blue eyes, brown hair, seeks male, 45-55, N/S, likes football, sports, meals out etc., looking for lasting relationship and cuddles. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392803**

WIDOW 70's, many interests, seeks gent who misses companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 396401**

SUE 53, slim, blue eyes, likes football, animals, seeks N/S male, 45-55 for loving, lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386247**

FEMALE likes country walks, gardening, animals, seeks male for company, meals out and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390147**

LYNETTE 60, South African, new to area, N/S, sociable, like the outdoors, looking for new friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 386387**

BLACK female, 30, likes animals, swimming, music, singing, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395941**

LUCY kind caring, honest, fuller figured, blonde, blue eyes, 44, looking for older man, kind, caring and honest. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 395805**

Men Seeking

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RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211**

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033**

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913**

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903**

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097**

PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530**

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481**

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405**

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real ale, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271**

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354**

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possible LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887**

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506**

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729**

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641**

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531**

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395**

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499**

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497**

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897**

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887**

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294**

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761**

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595**

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531**

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481**

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399**

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 49, seeks younger, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365**

SLIM 67yr old male, fit, loving, 5ft 7ins, blue eyes, independent, sociable, easygoing, enjoys usual, seeks honest lady to share it all with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401245**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401361**

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353**

TIM own car/flat, seeks N/S lady 60-70's for holidays, companionship etc. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401351**

ALAN from Kent, looking for Miss Right to fall in love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401329**

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, GSOH, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401309**

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BI male, senior, clean shaven, Maidstone area, seeks bi male, N/S for occasional meets, must be discreet, 45-55. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402393**

DAVID 66, retired, fit, looking for man, 50-75 for daytime fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402249**

STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402147**

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093**

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STRAIGHT female, 48, Ashford, seeks pals for socialising, likes pubs, cinema, country walks with dogs and swimming. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403171**

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621**

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SUSIE, attractive nurse, works a nightshift so free during the day. Text me. **Text INDEP 205021 to 66888**

BORED and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. **Text INDEP 205026 to 66888**

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. **Text INDEP 204765 to 66888**

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. **Text INDEP 205285 to 66888**

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. **Text INDEP 204668 to 66888**

BIG is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! **Text INDEP 205069 to 66888**

SUE, sporty and fun , why not chat with me. **Text INDEP 205455 to 66888**

SASSY Blonde 22yrs loves fun chat. **Text INDEP 204856 to 66888**

ADVENTUROUS lady, ask me about myself. I'm here for you. **Text INDEP 205191 to 66888**

SALLY Ann hoping to chat with mature men **Text INDEP 205246 to 66888**

NIKITA, Russian beauty, has naughty side to her and loves to chat. **Text INDEP 205093 to 66888**

MARILYN, feminine petite blonde, own home and just loves to text. **Text INDEP 204910 to 66888**

ASIAN lady, very kind and respectful. Loves to chat to English men. Text me. **Text INDEP 204550 to 66888**

LADY 22yrs is interested in texting men for chats. **Text INDEP 204562 to 66888**

SALLY and Sophie 19yr old twins love to share everything. Call us for a chat. **Text INDEP 204614 to 66888**

MATURE lady, very young looking 60, curvy figure, loves to chat with younger men.**Text INDEP 204784 to 66888**

DIVORCED and happy lady, doesn't get out much so loves to chat with those who do. **Text INDEP 204530 to 66888**

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

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SOLVENT business gent, would love to have a phone friend to chat with, **ACA. Text INDEP 204937 to 66888**

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Inside this week

Food & Drink 39

Restaurant Review
Location doesn't matter when the food is as good as this
The Ambrette is nominated for The Good Food Guide

Leisure 37, 41-43

Have a laugh with the Sherpa of Standup
It's time for the Big Weekend

Business Week 45-53

Business Quarter
Osborne told to make efforts to assist economic growth
Start-ups are told to ask the experts for some good advice

Driving 55-62

Steve Loader looks at Ford's latest offering to SUV fans
Road Test
Chevrolet Aveo gives more style and substance for less

weekend

By **JOE BILL**

From sketches to stand-up, it's all comedy and error for Simon

Popular funnyman Simon Day, known for his role in hit comedy The Fast Show, took his new tour to The Gulbenkian this week; here he reveals why he left sketch shows behind to focus on a career in stand-up

PUT your knickers on and make me a cup of tea!" The line that brought fame to Simon Day during The Fast Show years is still remembered fondly by fans and indeed by the man himself.

Dressed as uncompromising Detective Monkfish, Day was a key player in the award-winning comedy sketch show, but it is his own brush with the law before his TV break that is the centre of his new touring show.

It features Day reading extracts from his new book Comedy And Error, in which he details his troubled youth, leaving school and being sent to borstal, being homeless and developing both gambling and drug habits.

The 50-year-old said: "Basically, I do some stand-up at the start and then a couple of bits out of the book. Then I do a bit of Tommy Cockles, one of my characters, and then a Q&A.

"The audience often ask about my life and all the scrapes I've got into, The Fast Show characters and all that.

"There are always the questions about 'What I was like when I was on drugs?' and that sort of stuff. It was all a bit weird to answer at first, but once it's all written down in a book, like it is, you get used to it."

Day was part of the successful team

'There are always the questions about what was I like when I was on drugs and that sort of stuff'

of comedians that included Paul Whitehouse, Charlie Higson, John Thomson, Mark Williams, Arabella Weir and Caroline Aherne, who formed the Fast Show crew between 1994 and 1997.

"I enjoyed all of it. It was a great time. We just dressed up and messed about, or that's what it felt like. We all got on well, but we were all quite good at what we did, too, so it was like being in a good football team. I liked doing all of my characters – Dave Angel, Competitive Dad, all of them were a good laugh."

The team have reconvened once since finishing the show, with an online-only series sponsored by Foster's lager in November 2011. It featured the complete cast, with the exception of Mark Williams, who declined to take part in the project.

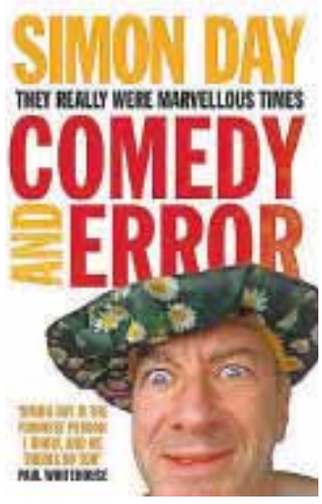
"Maybe those shows will go on Dave, I don't know. I see the guys all the time. I see Paul a lot and I saw Charlie the other night. John lives in Manchester, so he stays at my house when he is down and we moan about how we have been left behind and all that, and how tough our lives are now.

"I'm thinking about doing some sketches with John Thomson. But nothing is set yet – I'm open to anything, to be honest."

The current tour is a more traditional stand-up routine than the character-based comedy for which Day is known, but he is happy to be getting out to theatres across the country.

"I always did stand-up – that's how I started. I think, like a lot of other people, when you start to do well you get on TV and you get acting jobs and you think you can be a comic actor.

"That's less aggro, you know what I mean? It's less work because you



can turn up and everyone looks after you. If you get a bit lazy, like I am, you want to go up to Loughborough tonight [and do stand-up], you think I can just do acting. And then that fades out and actually you realise that it's a very good living doing stand-up.

"The ideas – writing them down and performing them – are very liberating, so you end up going back to it."

There is today a shortage of sketch shows on national television, with the likes of The Fast Show, Monty Python, Little Britain and Not The Nine O'Clock News all consigned to history.

"I don't know why. I suppose it goes in and out of fashion, doesn't it? The

'It was a great time. We just dressed up and messed about, or that's what it felt like'

fashion now is to have panel shows with the comics on and it's going well and people are watching them.

"Then there's also the Live At The Apollo stuff... that's just what is in vogue.

"Then they say 'Sketch shows are out', so they stop making them and they end up making other versions of what is already successful. That's just how TV channels work."

Day has also recently returned to the small screen, having appeared in a comedy short entitled Colin, aired on satellite channel Sky Atlantic

"I wrote that script years ago," he said. "It was going to be a feature film. Channel Four bought it and it didn't get made, then Steve Coogan was going to buy it and eventually it just got made as a short.

"It may still go on to be something bigger like a sitcom in the future, but who knows?"

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The Sherpa of Standup finds his way with a new moral compass

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THEY say that behind every good man there is a good woman, and that has proved hearteningly true for Canterbury-bound Canadian comic Tony Law.

The 43-year-old, known as the Sherpa of Standup, is bringing his hit show Maximum Nonsense to Canterbury's Marlowe Studio this month.

Law, who has had regular slots on Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Have I Got News For You, has developed his own distinctive style, often explaining his gags to the audience as he goes along, such is the nature of his performance.

However, he admits that his material has become more streamlined in recent years, thanks in no small part to his wife and twins.

"She has helped out more in the last three years since we had twins. Before then, it was nonsense with no meaning," he said. "She watches stuff and asks 'How would they feel if you say that?'. No one is ever going to get bullied now. It comes from a good moral place – my wife makes sure of that."

His current show, he says, is "bonkers". "There are a few themes going through it. There are social and political aspects, too."

Despite winning the prestigious Foster's Edinburgh Comedy Award for Best Show, and appearing in regular slots on television, he does not consider himself famous, more someone who is just paying his rent.

"I wouldn't even say I'm mainstream yet. I'm still pretty alternative, pretty underground," he said. "I've had a little bit more success. I would think that's got a lot to do with doing a few more TV shows and winning a couple of awards.

"It doesn't feel any different. I don't think things have changed. I can continue to pay the rent. If I hadn't had that tiny bit of success, I would not have been able to do that."

As a teenager he left his home in Alberta, Canada, and travelled around Europe, using London as a base.

"I just wanted to get out of Canada when I was 19. I came to England and haven't lived in Canada since. I was a bit of a hobo – I've done all sorts of jobs.

"The worst was when I was in Canada working at an abattoir. I also worked on a garbage truck – I enjoyed that. I did a lot of bar-tending as well. I always had fun, no matter what I did."

Maximum Nonsense plays at the Marlowe Studio on Saturday, March 23, starting at 8pm.

Tickets are £12 (£10 concessions). For further details and to book, you can visit www.marlowetheatre.com or phone the box office on 01227 787787.

UNIQUE: Tony Law, the Sherpa of Standup, is bringing his own nonsensical brand of comedy to Canterbury later this month

Jamie images highlight the extraordinary life of coral reefs

A MARINE biologist from Sevenoaks has his underwater snaps exhibited in a London museum for the first time.

Jamie Craggs, who lives with his wife and young family at Bradbourne Lakes, is having his watery-world shots displayed at the Horniman Museum in Forest Hill, south London.

The show is entitled Rainforest Of The Sea and features 39 images taken during his work on coral-reef expeditions in the Philippines, as well as from his time spent as an underwater cameraman in Borneo.

He said: "Coral reefs are often called the rainforest of the sea because, like rainforests, they are one of the most biologically-diverse habitats on the planet.

"These photos weren't taken with an exhibition in mind, but the threats to this amazing underwater world are so great that I wanted the images to do some good."

Coral reefs are among the world's richest habitats – 25 per cent of all marine life is found in and around them yet they only cover 0.1 per cent of the ocean floor. One of the hotspots for coral reefs is the coral triangle encompassing Borneo, the Philippines and Indonesia – it is estimated that a square metre of reef in this area contains the same number of species as a hectare of Amazonian rainforest.

Craggs said: "I hope the exhibition will not only show visitors the beauty and wonder of the coral reef and its creatures but also raise awareness of the importance of protecting them for the future."

Overfishing, pollution and climate change are said to be pushing reefs to the brink of collapse. It is estimated that 25 per cent of the world's reefs are functionally extinct and could be gone forever within 50 years.

Craggs is the aquarium curator at the Horniman Museum and oversees a collection of 2,500 live specimens from 150 aquatic species.

He specialises in coral biology and is working with international organisations to conserve coral reefs and better understand the impact that human life has on these fragile and globally-important habitats.

Rainforest Of The Sea runs until Sunday, September 15, and the museum is free to enter.

BENEATH THE WAVES: Jamie Craggs has seen things beyond our imagination

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Seaside dining experience that passes the test with honours

RESTAURANT **REVIEW**

LOCATION, location, location is the mantra so often recited as an essential ingredient to success. Yet The Oxford suggests just sometimes you can assume greatness even if you're not sited in a gorgeous location.

Granted, it's in critics' darling Whitstable, but The Oxford isn't on the harbour, or next to a boutique. Instead, it overlooks a somewhat drab part of the town's main thoroughfare, with a view that takes in a sweep including a tattoo parlour and an accountants.

Enter its doors, however, and you find yourself in a restaurant that may be small but is almost perfect in its form.

But then this site has some pedigree. Salt Marsh once lived here, an eatery that dispensed with such formalities as menus and price-lists and became the town's hidden treasure before buying into the mainstream and becoming an add-on to The Duke of Cumberland, in the very heart of the town and within site of both the harbour and pretty seafront.

The Oxford, though, has matured into a venue that surpasses even Salt Marsh in its prime. It just seems to get everything right.

Service is attentive yet not overbearing. The food comes and goes at a perfect pace. The menu is tight yet sufficiently diverse to make you think

if this is good you'll have to come back and try some of the others. Which, by the time you leave, you'll want to do very swiftly indeed.

Soft warm bread and thin parsnip crisps – in delicate light swirls – are brought to the table as you await your food. And a bottle of fruity Chablis starts everything off well.

We order the smörgåsbord as a starter to share. If there is a problem facing the plethora of restaurants in the town, it is that variety of dishes is a little lacking. This seems to solve it. Served on a wooden plate, it includes a large scotch egg that will forever put rivals in the shade. Halved with a warm egg, its golden yolk weeping from the centre, this is a real treat. Joined by a subtle duck terrine, several slices of what is dubbed as Whitstable rarebit, oysters, smoked-haddock fritters and a trio of dips and pickles, it is a delicious and inventive way to get a meal under way.

The main course is at risk of being upstaged; it needn't have worried. I've plumped for pigeon breasts with black pudding, bacon and pearl barley. The meat is rich in that game-like way yet is delicately cooked and the pearl barley is a wonderful support act to the headliner.

My partner goes for wild sea bass fillet with brown shrimp butter, which goes down equally as well. The portions are well balanced – and, while at perhaps the upper end of the average dish price were you to take a quick poll of similar restaurants in the town, it fits a menu where it is clear some care and thought has gone into it.

By the time we've squeezed in a chocolate parfait and steamed syrup pudding, plus coffees, the bill us weighs in at a few pence over £80. Not cheap, not unreasonable. but an exceptional meal.

Chris Thomson

■ **The Oxford**
27a Oxford Street, Whitstable CT5 1DB (telephone 01227 265717)

Good Food Guide takes votes for The Ambrette

THE Ambrette restaurant in Margate has been nominated for The Good Food Guide Readers' Restaurant Of The Year award.

The Indian eatery, run by chef patron Dev Biswal, has had a number of nominations and is one of four from from the South East to be put forward for the award. There is still another four weeks for readers to nominate a restaurant.

The award champions local venues and recognises great food and service at restaurants, pubs and cafés across the UK.

The award gives people the opportunity to nominate their favourite local establishment across 10 UK regions. The regional winners will be announced in May.

Cask Marque keeps this Red Lion roaring

THE Red Lion free house at Hernhill has bagged a top accolade for its beer.

The pub, known for throwing real-ale fairs throughout the year, has been awarded the coveted Cask Marque.

The scheme sees pubs visited by an anonymous assessor twice a year. He or she checks all the cask ales on sale and tests for temperature, appearance, aroma and taste.

If they reach the required standard, the pub receives a plaque, framed certificate and merchandising material.

Landlord Ben Edwards said: "We are delighted as it shows how good our beer is."

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YOUR WEEKEND

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Port events to make a splash

A NEW family fun day is set to start the summer in style in Dover.

Paddlesports, sailing taster sessions, pedalos and a Thames-cutter race, the Dover Port Dash, are just some of the features of the Port of Dover Community Regatta, which will incorporate the pre-existing Dover District Community Safety Day.

The event, which will take place on Saturday, July 27, from 10am to 5pm, is organised by Dover Harbour Board and promises a programme of first-class fun.

Bob Goldfield, chief executive of the Port of Dover, said: "We're pleased to support a new marine event for Dover, making the most of our harbour for the enjoyment of the community and to continue supporting the Dover District Community Safety Day.

"With the involvement and enthusiasm of Dover Sea Sports Centre, we are creating an exciting partnership to provide a fantastic festival of family fun on land and sea at the Port of Dover – it should be a great start to the summer holidays."

To register your interest in the Dover Port Dash, which consists of six-person teams, email elaine.lynch@doverport.co.uk.

There's still time to enjoy big weekend of family fun

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT is still a week away, but My Big Kent Weekend organisers have already received the highest number of applicants in the event's history... and there are still tickets to be had.

More than 92,000 people have registered for the 17,000 free tickets to the 123 participating venues around the county.

There is still time to register for unclaimed tickets, with almost 2,000 up for grabs; however, you must do so by midnight Monday, March 18.

Now in its seventh year, the weekend, which sees the likes of Leeds Castle and Port Lympne Wild Animal Park throwing open their doors to free-ticket-holders, is viewed a boost for the economy in the county, generating 'secondary-spend' income and repeat visitors for the remainder of the year.

The animal attractions proved the most popular for prospective punters, as shown in the table, while the castles, including fourth-placed Leeds, were not far behind.

THE TOP FIVE MOST POPULAR VENUES

Venues	applicants	tickets available
Wingham Wildlife Park	5,272	200
Howletts Wild Animal Park	4,984	100
Port Lympne Wild Animal Park	4,824	100
Leeds Castle	3,533	100
Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway	2,815	300

ANIMAL MAGIC: Port Lympne's tiger cubs are a big draw for visitors

There were 12,000 more applicants this year compared with last, when its worth was proved by £111,267 being spent at venues.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive at Visit Kent, which organises the annual event, said: "It's been a record year, with 92,000 applications for the 17,000 places. So we know lots of people have been disappointed. However, some people who won tickets are now unable to take advantage of them because of other engagements.

"We hope everyone will return any spare tickets to the website so that others can download them and enjoy a My Kent Big Weekend treat.

"If you did not win any tickets in the ballots to join in all the activities on March 23, 24 and the grand finale to English Tourism Week, it's worth checking the website to see which tickets become available."

Visit www.mykentbigweekend.co.uk to find out more.

FAB FOUR

Salomons Victorian Theatre, T Wells
Sunday, March 24, 4pm
Phone: 07803 605820
Website: www.kentchorus.co.uk
Kent Chorus: The highly-acclaimed group will perform Bach's St John Passion with the Meridian Chamber Orchestra. Tickets £14 adults, £5 children.

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, March 21, 8.30pm
Phone: 01303 277175
Website: www.towertheatrefolkestone.co.uk
London Jazz Quartet: Teddy Pope's London Jazz Quartert, featuring Cliff Hall, Val Mannix and Michael Coates, will be playing classic Sinatra and Tony Bennett. Tickets £9.

Holy Trinity Church, Cliftonville
Saturday, March 23, 2pm-5pm
Phone: 01843 842882
Website: www.rotarythanetsunrise.co.uk
The Big Knit: Hi Kent, the county's charity for deaf and hard-of-hearing people, organising a charity knit. Participants will be knitting plain lengths, sponsored by the inch.

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Saturday, March 30, 7.45pm
Box office: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk/online
ABBA Reunion: World-class tribute act ABBA Reunion will be performing the pop legends' rich array of hits... starring the original 'Frida' from the West End show. Tickets £18.50.

YOUR WEEKEND

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Picture: DAVE ROLFE

Red pandas are in their element on snow day

PORT Lympne Wild Animal Park's red pandas were right at home in the snow this week.

With the park near Hythe forced to close because of the weather conditions, visitors missed out on the chance to get a glimpse of the elusive breeding pair.

The pandas are more used to sub-zero temperatures in their home range of the Himalayas and mountainous regions of northern Myanmar and western China, and so were on their own in enjoying Monday's blizzards as their neighbours sheltered from the cold.

Animal manager Simon Jeffrey said: "All the animals here have access to heated indoor enclosures or shelters thickly bedded with straw, with additional feeds providing the extra central-heating the animals may require.

"Despite the provision of warm, snug beds, some of the animals just prefer to be out enjoying the snow."

Stardust will face the music as Irving Berlin

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

GLAM-ROCK legend Alvin Stardust is set to bring some of the greatest songs ever written to life in the story of Irving Berlin.

Stardust, who has had seven Top 10 hits in a chart-span lasting 25 years, will be starring in Let's Face The Music: The Irving Berlin Story.

In a 60-year career, Berlin wrote some of the most popular songs of the 20th century, including White Christmas, There's No Business Like Show Business and Happy Holiday.

Stardust, no stranger to hits himself, having debuted with My Coo Ca Choo in 1973, has been back touring as a musician for the last four years, following several decades in acting, including roles in Channel 4's Hollyoaks and numerous theatre productions.

"The last 15 years or so I've done a lot of theatre," he said. "I was in loads of musicals and acting roles. But I was missing my music. I gave up my management and record deals and I put a three-piece band together. It's gone barmy. We've done everything from the Isle of Wight festival to Guilfest, Belgium and Germany."

Age has proved no barrier for Stardust, who is still going strong at 70 years of age.

"As you get older, as any old person will tell you, you don't feel older. It's just that bits fall off on the outside," he said. "It's like being a teenager now – I do what I want, from a little rock'n'roll concert in Norfolk to a big gig in Europe, like Germany's Stuttgart stadium, which can hold 50,000 people.

"It's not like living in the past, because loads of different bands turn out, but everyone wants to see the music they grew up with."

He admits that taking on Berlin's songs adds another dimension to the performance.

"Everyone knows his songs like White Christmas," he said. "I'm enjoying it. I'm not in trepidation but wary that he's such a respected person, and The Marlowe is such a great theatre."

Presented by The Marlowe Friends, Let's Face The Music: The Irving Berlin Story also features Ian Adams and Julie Paton and is written and narrated by June Brewer.

It is at The Marlowe Theatre on Monday, March 25, at 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced £18 and £16 (concessions available), are available from the box office on 01227 787787 or at www.marlowetheatre.com.

FAB FOUR

Granville Theatre, Ramsgate
Saturday, March 30, 8pm
Box office: 01843 855000
Website: www.granvilletheatre.co.uk

Imagine....The Beatles: The top Beatles tribute act return to Ramsgate following sell-out shows in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Tickets £10 in advance, £12 on the door.

The Gulbenkian, Canterbury
Thursday, March 21, 7.30pm
Box office: 01227 769075
Website: www.kent.ac.uk/gulbenkian/theatre

Animal Farm: Guy Masterson performs George Orwell's classic satire. Masterson's physical story-telling makes for two hours of compelling theatre. Tickets £11, concessions £7.

The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Sunday, March 24, 7.30pm
Box office: 01322 220000
Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

The Solid Silver 60s Show: Enjoy a night of 1960s nostalgia with Mike Pender, the voice of The Searchers, and Dave Berry and Wayne Fontana of the Merseybeats. Tickets £27.50.

Memorial Theatre, Hilderstone
Saturday, March 23, 7.30pm
Box office: 0845 2626263
Email: info@sarahthorne-theatreclub.co.uk

Murder Mystery – Back To School: This thriller set at a boarding school in Kent will take the audience on an adventure. Tickets £10 (£8 Sarah Thorne Theatre Club members).

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YOUR **WEEKEND**

Marlowe defies the critics with record first-day sales after multi-million rebuild

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

EXPECTATIONS are high for another successful year at The Marlowe Theatre following record-breaking first-day sales and a rise in average show attendances.

The Canterbury venue has just completed its first full financial year after a £23.5 million rebuild, completed in October 2011. This means theatre bosses have been able gauge the impact of the renovation – and it is all good news.

"It's very pleasing. It's been an exciting financial year," said theatre director Mark Everett. "Every time you switch on the television or look at a newspaper, you get gloom and doom, but it doesn't seem to affect theatre-going.

"We had a good first six months, and the cynics said it was the honeymoon period. We have got past the honeymoon period and we have kept going and getting better.

"I had some pretty awkward conversations with some people who said it wouldn't last, but we have proved they were wrong. It gives me huge confirmed confidence in the organisation – we have some fantastic people working here."

The summer brochure went out earlier this month, exclusively to the membership group Marlowe Friends. A total of 4,205 tickets was sold with a value of £100,012, hammering the previous record of £78,000. Tickets go on sale from Monday (March 18).

The most sought-after shows for the 1,200-seater site included Alan Bennett's new play, People, The Rocky Horror Show, Priscilla Queen Of The Desert and Fiddler On the Roof.

SHINE ON: The rejuvenated Marlowe Theatre

"So far we have averaged 900 seats for every single performance," said Everett. "It compares very favourably with the old Marlowe, where the best was 710 – the capacity then was 950. The old theatre was hardly a failure, but we had outgrown it.

"I thought we would have reasonable success, but it's gone beyond my expectations."

The success means the theatre can subsidise the more expensive ventures such as the Philharmonia Orchestra, which performed at the venue six times last year.

"At the end of the day we are in the public sector and our job is to break even as best we can," he said. "A good example is the Philharmonia Orchestra. They cost money. It barely breaks even, but we can keep that in our programme."

• Visit www.marlowetheatre.com.

Grand gesture at Dickens World

DICKENS World in Chatham will be opening its newest attraction, The Grand Tour, next weekend.

The informative and funny guided tour through the world in which Charles Dickens lived opens to the public on Saturday, March 23, to coincide with My Big Kent Weekend.

After analysing customer feedback during the great author's 200th birthday, Dickens World has had a big internal refurbishment to create the tour of Victorian England indoors.

It has reduced the entrance price for the new season from £13 to £5.50 to make it more affordable.

A spokesman for Dickens World said: "Our reasoning is simple: we are opening up the attraction to many families who may not otherwise be able to afford a family day out.

"We are not offering less – we are offering more and believe we will expand the business with a greatly-enhanced footfall by doubling the experience with our innovative guided tours of Dickensian/Victorian England, thus providing a new, fresh and enjoyable day out for our visitors, both old and young."

Phone 0844 858 6656 or visit www.dickensworld.co.uk to find out more about the venue and events.

You don't have to walk 500 miles for this gig

SUNSHINE On Leith, (I'm Gonna Be) 500 Miles, Letter From America, I'm On My Way, Life With You, Let's Get Married... awesome songs from an awesome band, and they're coming to Kent this summer.

The Proclaimers, right, are playing Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on Friday, July 5.

Since the release, 26 years ago, of their first album This Is The Story, the band – aka twin brothers Craig and Charlie Reid – have enjoyed astonishing success, with gold and platinum singles and albums in the UK, US, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Their most recent, and ninth, album, Like Comedy, was released last year.

Tickets for the Folkestone gig are priced at £25.50; visit www.leascliffhall.co.uk to find out more.

CROSSKEYS
Life's a journey. Take your seat.

Day Trips

		Adult £	Child £
March			
Wed 20	Ideal Home Exhibition - Earls Court	29.00	11.00
Sat 23	Bruges	35.50	29.00
Tues 26	Wisley Gardens in Spring	24.50	19.00
Thur 28	Life & Death in Pompeii & Herculaneum - British Museum	28.50	25.00
April			
Tues 02	Drusillas Zoo Park	22.00	18.00
Thur 04	Legoland	38.00	31.00
Thur 04	Windsor	18.00	14.00
Sat 06	Disneyland Paris by Ferry	74.00	69.00
Sat 06	Creative Stitches & Hobbycrafts (Excel)	25.00	22.00
Mon 08	Afternoon Cite Europe	16.00	12.50
Tues 09	London Zoo	30.00	24.00
Tues 09	London Day Out	19.00	15.50
Wed 10	Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter	49.00	39.50
Sat 13	De Panne	25.00	19.00
Sun 14	Big Stamp & Scrapbooking Show	25.00	19.00
Thur 18	Boulogne	27.00	19.00
Sun 21	Blackbushe Sunday Market	13.50	11.00
Tues 23	The Kennett Valley Horse Drawn Barge inc Ploughman's Lunch	40.00	38.00
Thur 25	Brick Lane Music Hall - St George's Day Show	41.00	N/A
Sat 27	Southend-on-Sea	19.00	12.00
Mon 29	The Secret Gardens of Sandwich	18.50	
Tues 30	Montreuil-Sur-Mer	31.00	25.00
May			
Fri 3	Blossom Tour & Teapot Island	18.50	14.50
Tues 7	Afternoon Drive and Fish & Chips at Jempsons	14.50	13.00
Mon 13	Afternoon Cite Europe	16.00	12.50
Thurs 16	Camden Lock & River Cruise	28.00	19.00
Sat 18	De Panne	25.00	19.00
Sun 19	Brighton	19.00	10.00
Tues 21	Monet's Garden, Giverny	52.00	47.00
Thurs 23	Boulogne	27.00	19.00
Sat 25	Chelsea Flower Show	70.00	70.00
Tues 28	Wimbledon Lawn Tennis Museum & Club Grounds	29.50	24.00
Thurs 30	Thorpe Park	45.00	29.00

Short Breaks

15 April	Historical Severn Valley	2 Nights HB	155.00
19 April	Bruges & Brussels	2 Nights B&B	177.00
24 May	Flanders in a Flash	3 Nights HB	255.00
13 June	Liverpool	2 Nights B&B	132.00
24 June	Beautiful Rhine Valley	4 Nights HB	322.00
08 July	Parisian Chateaux & Gardens	4 Nights HB	370.00
03 Aug	Alton Towers	1 night HB	127.00
02 Sept	Monschau & Valkenburg	4 Nights HB	335.00
08 Sept	Waldorf Hilton	1 Night B&B + afternoon tea	139.00
20 Sept	York	2 Nights HB	141.00
04 Oct	Paris Weekend	2 Nights B&B	144.00
20 Nov	Thursford Christmas Spectacular	1 Night HB	131.00
29 Nov	Cologne Christmas Market	3 Nights HB	205.00

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Value for money, good service throughout our stay. Staff all very helpful and friendly
– Mr Scripps of Kent

Very good value
– Mr & Mrs Thurbon of Kent

GN People very friendly and helpful
– Mrs Norman of Sidcup

What Readers said about our Private Party Breaks at Pontin's Pakefield

3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD+ 99p BAR £119pp

Friday 31 May, 2013
Quote PF5-KOS

Join us as we celebrate the post war and baby boomer decades - for over 40s only - at Pontins Pakefield. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including 50s & 60s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun. The Good News Holidays team and Pontins Bluecoats will be on hand to ensure everyone has a great time.

3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD+ 99p BAR £119pp

Friday 28 June, 2013
Quote MM6-KOS

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pontins Pakefield with a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun. The Good News Holidays team and Pontins Bluecoats will be on hand to ensure everyone has a great time.

3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD+ 99p BAR £109pp

Friday 4 October, 2013
Quote PL10-KOS

The Rat Pack and an endless list of world famous stars have made Las Vegas the entertainment capital of the world. We're bringing a taste of Vegas fun to Pontins Pakefield with great variety entertainment including tribute acts, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun. Plus a 99p Bar every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite.

3 NIGHTS HALF BOARD+ 99p BAR £109pp

Friday 8 November, 2013
Quote DD11-KOS

Forget Carry on Camping, Dirty Dancing must be the 'hottest' holiday camp movie of all time. Our Christmas Party features a movie screening of Dirty Dancing, Let's Hang On - the world's No1 *Frankie Valli & Four Seasons tribute band, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun. Plus a 99p Bar every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite.

See page 46

Will county's brewers toast Budget freeze on beer duty?

See page 46

£6.5m sports centre to deliver big dividends

See page 51

Why a mentor may be your best investment for future growth

BusinessQuarter

ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA

Spring edition

Osborne told to release purse strings to aid economic growth

County's business leaders want Budget to deliver 'environment of enterprise and investment' rather than continue painful cuts

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CHANCELLOR George Osborne may have to produce a rabbit from his big red box next week, when he delivers a budget business chiefs across the county are eagerly, albeit somewhat nervously, anticipating.

All are united in calling on the Government to take brave steps and allow growth to flourish – rather than for more economic restraint.

The chancellor will unveil his budget to the House of Commons on Wednesday.

And while experts are hoping for key improvements to allow access to finance, simplifications of the tax system and permanent business rates relief, there are fears Mr Osborne will continue on his path of cutting the deficit rather than making growth the focus.

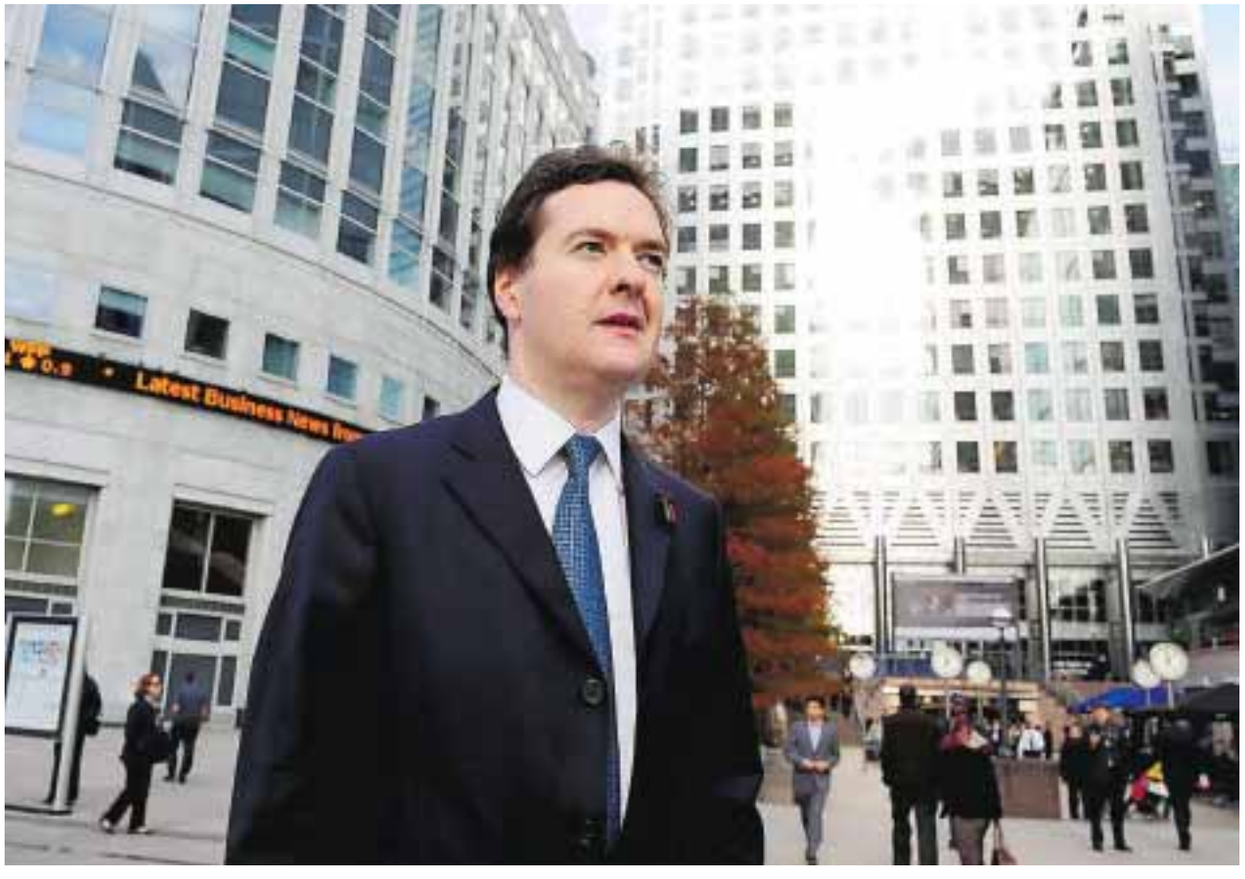
Chief executive of Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce, which covers much of the county, Jo James, said an "environment of enterprise and investment" is necessary to ensure a national economic recovery.

She said: "The chancellor has an opportunity to put in place measures which will stimulate business growth and we urge him to seize this opportunity.

"The chamber network is calling for measures that create an environment of enterprise, stimulate exports, kick-start infrastructure projects and create a structure of business finance which supports growing companies.

"Government spending remains far too focused on unproductive programmes, rather than measures that underpin economic growth, wealth creation and prosperity.

Turn to page five »



MAN WITH A PLAN: Chancellor George Osborne is facing possibly his most important Budget on Wednesday as business leaders pray for some good news

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE IN ART, ENGLISH AND MATHS INTERVIEWING NOW FOR SEPTEMBER 2013

ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE

Non-selective & high performing

The exam success of Rochester Independent College students has seen it ranked among the best schools in Kent and top in Medway

All good schools recognise there is more to education than exam results. Parents though inevitably look with interest at the league tables published each year by the Department for Education.

This year a new performance measure ranks schools on the percentage of students with two As and a B in the traditional academic A level subjects recommended for competitive degree courses.

200 of the 298 A level entries in 2012 at Rochester Independent College were in the 'facilitating' subjects identified by the Russell Group of leading universities - Maths and Further Maths, English Literature, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, History and Languages.

Commenting on the tables a Department of Education spokesman said: "We want to shine a light on those schools and colleges whose pupils achieve great results in key subjects that lead to the top universities."

While ranked highly in the new tables on this measure the real strength of the College is the range of subjects available, most of which are not on this list, but are equally useful preparation for many degrees and valued by universities.

"The teaching at Rochester is rigorous and tailored to the best possible exam results. It offers a broad education, combining its original focus on getting students into competitive university courses such as medicine, dentistry and veterinary science with an emphasis on the creative arts." **THE INDEPENDENT**

Many RIC students combine the academic with the practical; the traditional with the creative. Graphic Design and Music Technology are taken by many applying for Engineering degrees alongside Physics and Maths. History of Art complements Fine Art. Film and Sociology work well with History and English, World Development A level alongside Geography.

While new comparative data seems to be generated with every set of DfE tables, good schools will continue to put students before stats and guide them towards subject combinations that match their interests, aptitudes and aspirations. RIC has no A level option block restrictions.

Our younger students will continue to be offered Film, Media, Textiles, Drama, Music and Photography whether the GCSE Ebacc ranking which excludes these subjects survives or not.

Believing that everyone who works hard can do well, we do not have an entrance exam for children joining at 11+ or 13+ or minimum GCSE grade requirements for sixth form entry.

DfE Performance tables Kent & Medway

School	% of A level students achieving 3 A levels at grades AAB or higher in facilitating subjects
Tonbridge School	48%
The Judd School	44%
Ashford School	38%
Kent College (Canterbury)	33%
The Skinners' School	33%
CATS Canterbury	32%
Sir Roger Manwood's School	32%
The King's School Canterbury	31%
Benenden School	27%
Simon Langton Grammar School for Boys	25%
ROCHESTER INDEPENDENT COLLEGE	**21%**
Tonbridge Grammar School	19%
St Edmund's School Canterbury	18%
Cranbrook School	17%
Highworth Grammar School for Girls	17%
Tunbridge Wells Girls' Grammar School	16%
Maidstone Grammar School	15%
King's School, Rochester	15%
Gravesend Grammar School	14%
Weald of Kent Grammar School	14%
Rainham Mark Grammar School	13%
The Math School	13%
Beechwood Sacred Heart School	13%
Invicta Grammar School	13%
Maidstone Grammar School for Girls	13%
Sutton Valence School	12%
Borden Grammar School	11%
Dartford Grammar School for Girls	11%
Walthamstow Hall	11%
The Rochester Grammar School	10%
Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School	10%
Tunbridge Wells Grammar School for Boys	10%
Dover Grammar School for Girls	9%
Fort Pitt Grammar School	8%
Chatham House Grammar School	8%
Oakwood Park Grammar School	8%
Simon Langton Girls' Grammar School	8%
St Lawrence College	8%
Mayfield Grammar School, Gravesend	7%
Sackville School	7%
The Folkestone School for Girls	7%
The Norton Knatchbull School	7%
Chatham Grammar School for Boys	6%
Chatham Grammar School for Girls	6%
Bethany School	6%
Dane Court Grammar School	6%
Dover College	6%
Saint George's Church of England School	6%
The Harvey Grammar School	6%
Highsted Grammar School	5%
St Gregory's Catholic Comp School	5%
Bennett Memorial Diocesan School	4%
Clarendon House Grammar School	4%
St Simon Stock Catholic School	4%
Chaucer Technology School	3%
Dover Grammar School for Boys	3%
Mascalls School	3%
Wilmington Grammar School for Boys	3%
Wilmington Grammar School for Girls	3%
Duke of York's Royal Military School	2%
Kent College Pembury	2%
Longfield Academy	2%
The Archbishop's School	2%

2012 Source: http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/performance/

year 7 to 6th form

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Government would pull in extra £5m by easing beer tax in pubs

By Nick Ames
nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FAVERSHAM brewer Shepherd Neame is backing an industry call to halt beer duty in a move which could save some 5,000 jobs nationwide, but still inject an extra £5 million into tax revenues.

Chancellor George Osborne is coming under growing pressure to use this week's Budget to abandon the so-called 'duty escalator' which is due to impose another five per cent rise in tax on beer.

Campaigners claim the move would save jobs and increase the Government's share because it will ease pressure on pubs, meaning fewer going out of busines.

The British Beer and Pub Association (BBPA) says studies suggest freezing duty will increase the amount of tax Mr Osborne raises by keeping more people in work.

Shepherd Neame chief executive Jonathan Neame said: "A freeze on beer duty is clearly the sensible decision. Anything that protects jobs and gives pubs a fair chance to prosper is a good thing.

"The British Beer and Pub Association has produced a well-researched report highlighting these issues which gives the Government further reasons to take action on beer duty.

"We think there's considerable momentum this year with debates in Parliament and national press campaigns. The Treasury needs to listen to reason and recognise the industry's potential to aid growth."

Martyn Hillier opened the county's first micro-brewery pub, The Butchers Arms in Herne.

Micro-pubs are becoming the latest trend: opening up small scale, no-frills, independent drinking holes, in the premises of former shops, and sourcing only local beers.

What's more, Kent has become one of their most fertile breeding grounds.

He said: "The Government must be able to see pubs are closing left, right and centre. You can only milk the golden goose so much before you kill it.

"Pubs are an important part of British life."

The Labour government set up the duty escalator five years ago, and under its rulings beer tax rise by two per cent above inflation every year; since March 2008, duty has risen by 42 per cent.

In its report Beer, Pubs and the Budget 2013, the BBPA warns beer and pubs in Britain are over-taxed, at levels higher than most other European countries.

The Treasury predicts it will raise less from beer duty in 2013-14 compared with the previous year, despite plans to increase the rate by more than five per cent.

Beer and pubs support 949,000 jobs in the UK, paying close to £13 billion in wages, according to research done by Oxford Economics.

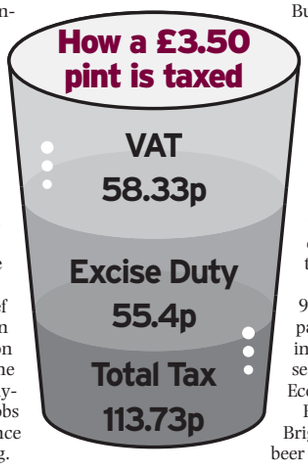
BBPA chief executive Brigid Simmons said: "UK beer drinkers now pay 40 per cent of the beer tax across the EU, but only consume 13 per cent of its beer.

"A duty freeze would raise revenues, protect jobs, and help one of our greatest national assets – our much-loved pubs."

Almost 150 MPs from all parties have backed a Commons motion demanding a freeze in beer duty.

Excise duty on a pint of lager in Britain is 55.4 pence, compared with just 4.6p in Spain.

The average price of a pint in Britain is £3.22 – almost double the Spanish average of £1.70 – of which 54p is VAT and 55p is excise duty. It is also considerably higher than in Germany and France.



PULLING POWER: Armstrong and Miller promoting Spitfire Ale

Chocks away as TV comedy duo 'ale' new advertising campaign

IN ITS latest marketing drive, Kent brewer Shepherd Neame has announced a partnership with TV comedy duo Alexander Armstrong and Ben Miller to promote its Spitfire Ale.

The pair, who appear in the guise of RAF airmen characters from their comedy sketch show, will been seen on a host of advertisements for the company's popular brand.

De Haan trust enables new £6.5m sports centre of excellence

FIELD OF DREAMS: Three Hills Sports Park boasts some top-class facilities

A BUSINESS partnership, building on a town's sporting heritage, has bought top-class facilities to Folkestone with a centre of excellence for cricket, hockey and netball.

Sports minister Hugh Robertson was special guest at the official opening of Three Hills Sports Park, on Cheriton Road, which has been established using £6.5 million from a charitable trust established by millionaire philanthropist Roger de Haan, the former owner of Saga Holidays.

The sports park is intended to be self-financing with revenue from facility hire paying for its upkeep, and any surplus money channelled into sports development.

Paul Major is a trustee of the trust which established the centre.

"We want to build on the unique sporting legacy here in Folkestone spanning 150 years of cricket and a century of hockey," he said.

"We have set up the business as a partnership – for which I think sport is a great metaphor and analogy. There is, first of all, the dreams and desires to accomplish something; then the teamwork and playing to individual strengths which makes that goal attainable."

The cricket square has been re-laid to the standard required for the County Championship and it is hoped some Kent second XI matches will take place there this season.

Three Hills came from a desire from both the town's cricket and hockey teams to provide better facilities.

Mr Major said: "When the Roger de Haan trust was approached he was impressed that the groups were collaborating, as he always looks to back organisations working together.

"But he said the ambition they were showing was not big enough.

"He liked the idea, but wanted to expand it. That is why we now have a centre of excellence which can appeal to those outside the immediate local area, although it will be of great benefit to the wider sports community of Shepway as well."

Management company Freedom Leisure will run the project on a day-to-day basis.

Business development director Ivan Horsfall Turner said: "It's an exciting partnership project which we are very pleased to be a part of."

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thanet district council

Capital problem still stops small firms from cashing in on future growth plans

« Continued from front page

"We are calling on the chancellor to take rapid and radical steps to shift government spending from unproductive areas and towards growth measures that can be delivered quickly."

It is a sentiment echoed by the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB) which, unsurprisingly, wants to see a budget to benefit its members.

Roger House, FSB chairman in Kent and Medway, said: "With the economy only growing a fraction in 2012, the chancellor must deliver a budget that is unashamedly focused on boosting small business.

"Our figures show that confidence is rising among Kent's small business owners, but there is still caution. And, even though unemployment has fallen considerably, consumer confidence to spend and boost the economy is far from sufficient."

The FSB said small companies across the county have ambition and want to grow, but consistently state finance and access to long-term capital are barriers to progress.

Experts have predicted that, with Britain losing its AAA credit rating, the Government will have to emphasise growth, rather than just focusing entirely on cutting the deficit.

But in a gloomy forecast at the end of last year, Mr Osborne admitted austerity measures were set to remain in place for around five years.

Mr House added: "What we need to hear is not more small-scale policies which tinker at the edges, but measures that will have a tangible effect both immediately and in the long-term."

When announcing the Budget date in December, Mr Osborne admitted he would fail to hit his target for reducing public debt as a proportion of economic output by 2015-16. He was also forced to extend austerity measure to 2018 – three years longer than initially planned – after the independent Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) cut its predictions for UK economic growth.

The OBR said that even after a five-year parliament of spending cuts and tax rises, the Government will still be borrowing one in every 10 pounds it spends.

Can George concoct marvellous Budget medicine?

The financing conundrum

Speak to any small business and a recurring theme is problems over access to finance. Without capital investment, companies remain limited in their freedom to expand and grow, and thus unable to help growth.

Banks, on the other hand, make lots of positive noises, but still seem to have their purse strings knotted.

The FSB has called for incentives to take on new staff and for the chancellor to announce a review of how enterprise support is delivered through central and local government to ensure support is focused and effective.

The federation also said he needs to put clear plans in place for the government-led 'business bank', a new institution which will have the role of getting finance to small firms.

Members added this should help open up competition in the banking sector and encourage non-bank sources of finance.

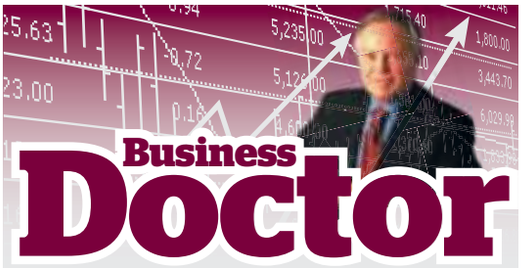
To bolster efforts to increase competition, the FSB want the Financial Conduct Authority – formed as one of the successors to the Financial Services Authority and which begins working on April 1 – to focus on encouraging new entrants into the market, so that small firms have more choice.

The FSB's wish list

- Ensure work being done to simplify the tax system is not watered down. The current proposal to allow small firms with a turnover of less than £77,000 to provide cash-based accounts is a major deregulatory step and one Kent FSB believes will increase compliance.
- See existing schemes for investment relief pooled together in a simple one-stop-shop, so that small firms know where to go for capital to invest in their business.
- Make small business rates relief permanent in Kent as some small businesses pay more in business rates than they do in rent.
- Extend the National Insurance contributions holiday to small firms in the county with less than four staff, rather than just start-up businesses.
- Cancel the 3p fuel duty rise planned for September 2013, and initiate a full review of fuel prices and motoring taxation
- Help boost businesses' cash-flow by ensuring when it is awarding contracts that its 'tier one' suppliers are signed up to the Prompt Payment Code and pay their supply chains quickly
- Extend the money available through the Government-backed StartUp Loans scheme to help more Kent residents who struggle to access finance to start a business. The payback periods should also be extended
- Direct Ofgem to mandate that energy companies cannot rollover a small business onto an un-negotiated contract for more than 30 days, down from the current period of 12 months.

Kent Invicta Chamber of Commerce wish list:

- Flexibility in the Government's deficit reduction plan; if no economic progress is made this year, other options should be considered.
- Re-prioritisation of resources away from unproductive expenditure towards investment in the economy. Direct investment in much-needed new housing. Creation of a new road repair and renewal fund.
- The Government must embark on a large-scale effort to deliver promises already made including a firm timetable for the launch of a credible British business bank along with increased efforts to incentivise
- Private sector investment in infrastructure.
- Freezing of business rates for three years.
- Tripling of the lifetime limit for Entrepreneurs Relief on Capital Gains Tax.
- Expansion of support for companies exporting to overseas markets.
- Introduction of a growth voucher scheme for SMEs with ambitions to grow.



Marketing is not all about spending money on advertising – Peter Hobbs highlights two online channels which could well boost your business sales, engage you with customers and be of particular benefit if you are trying to working on a tight budget...

Email marketing

Many of us get frustrated about receiving 'spam' in our inboxes, but when email marketing is done correctly it is the cornerstone of good online marketing and can produce great results.

The first step is to encourage people to sign-up to receive emails from you. Look at where you can get customers to share their details with you, and make sure you explicitly get their opt-in to receive information from your business.

Respect your customer's decisions not to receive email from you.

Consider using an email marketing provider to help you achieve better deliverability and make it easier to create great looking emails.

There are many firms out there that can help, and the cost may not be as expensive as you think.

Importantly, make sure that all your email campaigns are offering value to your subscribers.

Don't always look to sell in your emails; often, the emails that produce the most sales are the ones that don't actively try and promote your products, but provide useful information to your customers and prospects.

Experiment with content and subject lines, and keep testing to make sure you're optimising your approach

Social media

Chances are you personally use at least one social media network.

As a business, social media can be a minefield with so many different networks to choose from.

My advice is not to try and be everywhere – concentrate on a handful of social networks, rather than spreading yourself too thin.

Before you start, take the time to research how other businesses are using social media.

For most, creating your own blog, updated regularly with interesting content and news about your business, is a good place to start.

Creating a Facebook page is also very popular.

For business-to-business organisations, LinkedIn is a great way to communicate with other professionals in your area. There are groups on LinkedIn for all different industries; participate in the online conversations and help build more knowledge about your company and yourself.

Be clear about what you want to achieve from social media. For many businesses social media is a great way to put a more personal face on your business, to interact directly with customers and build stronger relationships with them.

Use your website and other marketing initiatives to encourage people to 'Like' or 'Follow' you.

Provide incentives for them to do so: special offers only available on your social media pages, for example.

Once you have built up a following, it's a great way to promote new products and services you have.

As with email marketing, use relevant content that interests your customers.

You will need to invest time to get it right.

Sometimes, you may not always get positive feedback, but by responding swiftly and professionally, you can help generate more trust in your brand.

Above all, be genuine.

Peter Hobbs is the chief executive of Kent Channel Chamber of Commerce

BusinessQuarter | Profiles

CENTRE FOR MICRO BUSINESS

Perfect point of reference for those budding entrepreneurs

AMID a hugely challenging economy, the question many are asking is where do we turn to for help and advice?

Kent is a county predominantly filled with 'micro' businesses, classified as people either working on their own and those with up to nine employees.

The opportunities are there if we look for them, but the demand now is to make it happen faster and with greater margins of success.

Government figures indicate that 80 per cent seeking to start a business without advice fail, whereas of the remainder, 60 per cent that do take advice, go on to succeed.

The Centre for Micro Business CIC is just that kind of reference point, created by Kent entrepreneurs to support those considering joining them in business. And where better to access information than in your local library.

Originally the concept of Roger House, regional chairman of the FSB, and honorary member of the Kent Ambassadors group, the centre, a social enterprise, has been joined by former KCC staff officer Roger Gabriel as director.

Successes are already in the making as through the centre several collaborative groups appear to be emerging.

To find out more, go to the website at www.cmbcic.co.uk or call or text on either 07805 764192 or 07505 540440.

THORLEY TAVERNS

Top seaside venues offer best place for you to talk business

THORLEY Taverns can serve up the perfect environment for you to do business, courtesy of its three top venues; all of which give fantastic views of the Kent coast.

PEGWELL BAY HOTEL

THE Pegwell Bay Hotel incorporates two stunning conference rooms along with a large decked area right on the waters' edge.

The Clifton Suite can accommodate 70 delegates comfortably, with the Ravenscliffe Suite catering for up to 100.

Full catering and conference stationary is available along with wifi and internet connections and a large on-site car park. The venue also offers a 42 bedroom hotel, with conference package rates available.

Contact: 01843 599590
Email: reception@pegwellbayhotel.co.uk or see the site www.pegwellbayhotel.co.uk.

OAK HOTEL

THE Oak Hotel provides the Tiffany Suite, with stunning views over Ramsgate's Royal Harbour and Marina.

Comfortably seating up to 60 delegates, the room boasts its own balcony with stunning views and rest rooms. Full catering and conference stationary is available along with wifi and internet connections.

The 34-bedroom hotel also offers discounted

rates for conference delegates.

Contact: 01843 583686
Email: reception@oakhotel.co.uk or see the site www.oakhotel.co.uk.

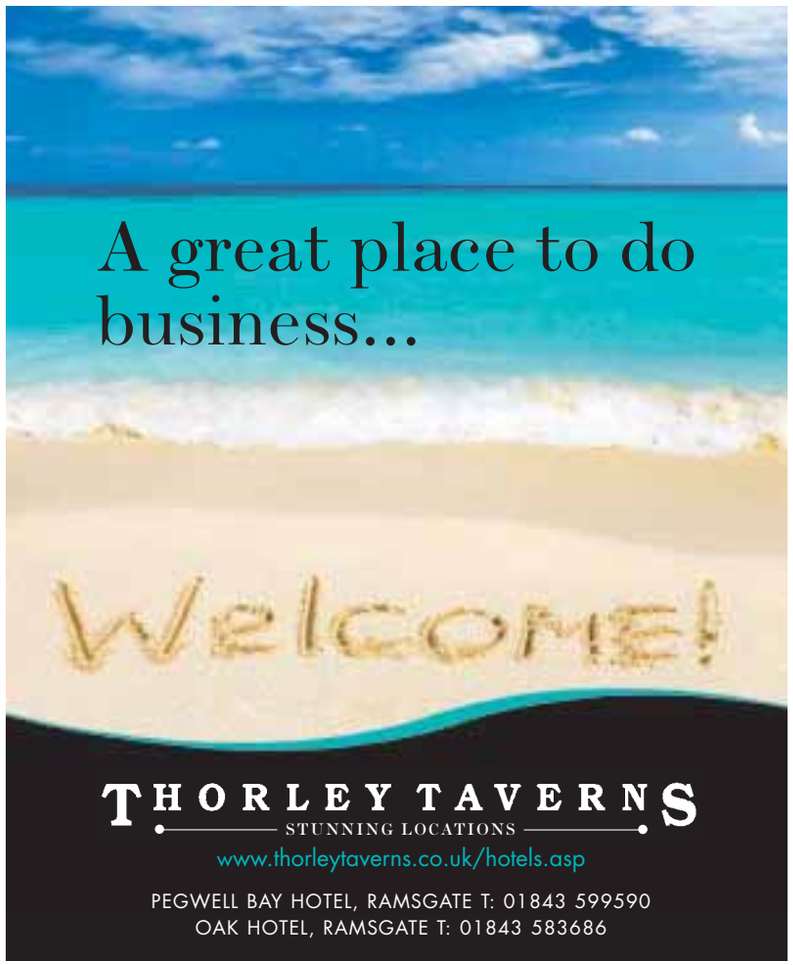
BROADSTAIRS PAVILION

THE Broadstairs Pavilion on the Sands offers a unique conference facility for those looking for a relaxed atmosphere by the sea.

Literally 'on the golden sands' of Viking Bay, the venue can accommodate 80 to 200 delegates. The spacious and airy room provides panoramic views over the bay, a large stage, separate toilet facilities and leads out onto the veranda and sands.

Fully equipped with conference stationary, wifi and internet connections, it also provides on-site catering. Accommodation can be provided at a discounted rate for delegates at the two hotels above which are only 10 minutes from this venue.

Contact: 01843 600999
Email: enquiry@pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk or see the site www.pavilion-broadstairs.co.uk



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FEDERATION OF SMALL BUSINESSES

FSB mentoring young people in planning for a better future

THE Federation of Small Businesses is setting out to play its part in building the future economy – with its members at the heart of playing a major role in creating a platform for growth.

A spokesman for the organisation said: "There are many ways in which a contribution to this can be made but the FSB has elected to focus on the younger business person and the nurturing of the culture of enterprise and employability.

"The partnership with the Young Enterprise organisation was made some years ago and goes from strength to strength.

"Nationally, the FSB has followed suit."

In celebrating its 50th year, Young Enterprise and the FSB are working together in a variety of ways. FSB members provide business mentoring, competition judges and those in Kent have put up funding to match-fund new schools participating in the YE programmes.

Working again in collaboration with others, the FSB was delighted to receive a nomination for its offer of complementary FSB membership for a young entrepreneur from the Kent Foundation.

Daniel Warren, of Mint Fresh Services, has now joined the FSB and is already receiving both support in the form of advice on how to set about employing people from an experienced member and benefiting from an introduction to a potential work stream.

The graduate from Canterbury Christ Church University said: "My business will also offer a commercial cleaning service to business owners with commercial offices."

MIDKENT COLLEGE

Smooth students stop their studies for cancer fundraiser

BUSINESS students from MidKent College raised more than £700 for Cancer Research after taking part in a series of sponsored events.

Led by lecturer Sukh Gill, the students also sold cakes while one of the fundraisers – Kyle Johnson – even agreed to have his legs waxed for the cause.

The students handed over a cheque for £738.88 to local Cancer Research representative Lindsey Richardson, who said she was extremely grateful for their days of activity which raised the funds.

She told them: "We rely on every single donation we receive. Without you we simply wouldn't save lives so thanks for everything you've done so far.

"The money you have raised really will help to beat cancer, and we won't stop until that has happened."

MidKent College offers one of the most extensive ranges of full-time, part-time, short and long courses in Kent and the south east from campuses in Medway and Maidstone.

These include courses in business, such as Higher National Diplomas (HND) and foundation degrees, in subjects including engineering and IT.

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Level 3 Certificate in Close Protection Operations – Experienced Practitioner Programme 11th – 22nd March (10 days) £1,400
The course for bodyguards/close protection operatives. This qualification enables students to apply for an SIA licence currently required to work in the United Kingdom or with specific British contractors abroad.

Multi-Environment Security Operator (MESO) Package 14 days – dates throughout the year £2,350
This unique course trains ex-service personnel for close protection and security roles in high-risk land and maritime environments in the UK and abroad. The course is run in conjunction with Edson Tiger.

Telephone: 01622 624900
Email: business.services@midkent.ac.uk
Website: www.mkcbusiness.co.uk
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MidKent College HE Centre
Oakwood Park, Tonbridge Road
Maidstone, Kent ME16 8AG

Professional guidance can help your start-up survive

Often referred to as the 'millionaires' mentor', Bev James has 20 years experience in coaching, training, recruitment and advice. She is currently director of mentoring for StartUp Loans, the Government initiative set up by Prime Minister David Cameron's business team. Here she explains how mentoring can help your business...

WHEN you are starting out in any new business venture, it is always reassuring to get as much advice as you can about the area you are moving into – after all, starting up from scratch can be a daunting prospect.

There have been 82,887 start-ups so far this year in Britain and while this is an inspiring figure, without proper guidance over a third of these will fail before the year is out.

This is due to a combination of reasons, but a common theme is many of these businesses do not have a mentor to help guide them through the crucial first year.

If you were planning an expedition to the Arctic, where hidden dangers could jeopardise progress and the climate might change at a moment's notice, would you travel without a map, without researching the terrain or consulting an experienced guide? It is very unlikely.

The path to business success is no less threatening and changeable.

So it always surprises me that hundreds of first-time business owners start up each year without sufficient planning or professional guidance.

Mentoring really matters when it comes to business. I know this because as well as mentoring people, I have mentors that help guide me too.

Common sense tells us business experience is useful and if you lack expertise in any areas a business mentor can help you navigate your path to success. Essentially they will use their experience, perspective and contacts to help you to get to where you want to go faster and with greater focus.

No matter how much entrepreneurial spirit you have, entrepreneurs can suffer from poor follow-through on good ideas, inability to maintain focus and fear of failure.

Additionally, an entrepreneurs' strengths can sometimes become weaknesses since over-enthusiasm, over-confidence and over-optimism can sometimes get in the way of practicalities. A mentor will be able to see when this is happening.

Before approaching a potential mentor you need to stop and ask yourself what you need a mentor for.

Is it to help with restructuring decisions or the launch of a new product line?

This will help you to decide what type of mentor is right for you, whether you need a troubleshooter for a short-term project or a long-term mentor to share their wisdom over a longer period of time.

There is no magic formula for choosing a mentor and the majority of start-up entrepreneurs would like to be mentored by the likes of James Caan, Sir Richard Branson or Deborah Meaden – however this is unlikely.

There will be plenty of business people who may be prepared to offer guidance and support either paid or unpaid, perhaps you can work out a way that you can exchange services.

■ You can search for mentors at www.mentorsme.co.uk

WISE WORDS: Bev James says there is no magic formula for choosing the right mentor, but they can put you on the path to making your business work

Kent Invicta Chamber

The County's Premier Business Support Network

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Or visit **www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk**

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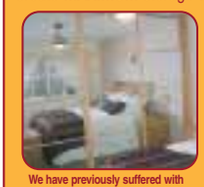

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First GEAR MOTORING NEWS

- Seat Leon impresses the crowds in Geneva
- Sleek and versatile Civic Tourer promised
- Latest Octavia hits the shops for Skoda

Aveo takes on a classier style but it retains value price tag

Driving

Powered by motors.co.uk

drive24.co.uk

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

FORD KUGA

Price: £20,875
Driving appeal: ★★★★★
Image: ★★★★
Space: ★★★★★
Value: ★★★★
Running costs: ★★★★
Reliability: ★★★★
How green?: ★★★★
Best rival: VW Tiguan

Ford springs early replacement as Kuga gets its SUV claws out

FORD maintains its market-leading position in the UK largely thanks to selling more than 60 per cent of its cars to company and fleet operators.

But it is making a big impact in the private sector through models like the S-Max MPV and Kuga SUV – rightly applauded for keen handling and often bought in upmarket trims such as Titanium.

The potential to do even better with the Kuga, in particular, was clearly not lost on Ford, which has taken the unusual step of axing the old model two-three years ahead of schedule to produce a second-generation car measuring up better on cabin space, adding global appeal.

Admittedly, the stretched replacement is not quite so good-looking – a factor inspiring healthy second-hand Kuga 'Mark I' demand – but this is more than offset by better all-round appeal.

Significantly, 1,850 new Kugas were sold even before the car's recent arrival in showrooms and 1,600 went to private buyers, who mostly specified flagship Titanium and Titanium X models.

Ford reckons the new car could boost Kuga sales by at least 30 per cent more than its predecessor, helped by the addition this time of a cheaper and more frugal front-wheel-drive option as well as 4x4, commanding a modest £1,005 premium.

Currently priced from £20,895, the new Kuga is as pleasing to drive as the old car, retaining an uncanny ability, despite its height, to keep its poise on cornering. But though it doesn't lean like so many rivals, this does not come at the price of an over-firm suspension.

The chance to take a 4x4 version off-road – on normal road tyres – also showed no little ability when conditions were slippery and rutted, though ground clearance was obviously not as generous as on a genuine off-roader.

Styling, fit and finish inside is impeccable, adding weight to Ford's upmarket aims, and the extra space in the cabin has created a far more versatile fold-flat rear seating – with genuine space for three – and load space that would do credit to an MPV.

The dashboard layout is clear and, as ever with Ford, ergonomically sound, though I preferred the simplicity of the previous car and its bigger media screen – the new car's is smaller and buried deeper into the dash, though this undoubtedly helps visibility in brighter conditions.

Interior refinement is excellent, testament to thicker cabin glass and Ford's work on noise insulation.

The best-selling powertrain is a 2.0-litre TDCi diesel with 140PS (138bhp) or 163PS (161bhp) outputs, with Ford's slick twin-clutch manual/auto Powershift gearbox as a £1,500 option, but the quickest version (0-62mph in 9.7 seconds) is also lean and mean: a 150PS (148bhp) Ecoboost petrol alternative for front-wheel-drive models, offering an official combined fuel consumption of 42.8mpg.

ON THE PROWL: Ford's second-generation Kuga boasts a stylish interior continuing the carmarker's focus on providing a more upmarket drive and a statement of intent in the lucrative SUV sector

DON'T LIKE

... to see the old car dumped prematurely as it was one of the best small SUVs to drive and look at, but the new Kuga is a better all-rounder.

NOT SURE

... Ford is getting enough credit for the quality it is building into its cars, but some buyers can see it – and are trading up to high-spec versions.

REALLY LIKE

... how Ford has kicked on here, building on the old Kuga's many strengths. The new car will change minds and definitely recruit new buyers.

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MOTORING

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Chevy bargain also has style

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

CHEVROLET'S second-generation Aveo supermini is far more pedigree than its mongrel predecessor.

That car was a 'bitsa' – bits of this, bits of that – created from the former Daewoo Kalos, after gaining the Chevy two-part grille and a rather less weird name.

It was cheap but easily outclassed. Its successor remains affordable (from £10,535) and Korean-built, too, but is far more comfortable and nicer to drive, with a spread of decent powertrains.

It also looks sharp at the lower end of its sector, where style usually comes a distant second to cheap running costs, so the fact that the five-door Aveo appears to be a rakish three-door – helped by concealed rear door-handles – is an unexpected bonus.

Striking twin-pod chromed headlights also give it more on-road presence than most rivals, with the fully-glazed units that are the norm.

The car's interior has its own flair, with a motorcycle-inspired cluster of dials and gauges and two jet-intake-style air vents on the dashboard, plus many clever storage points, including two gloveboxes.

The driver gets a fully-adjustable steering wheel to help towards a comfortable driving position – you won't worry about covering lots of miles in this supermini.

A long wheelbase helps deliver a good ride and allows an airy cabin, with exceptional rear head and legroom... and width – you can seat three in the back without too much of a squeeze.

There's also a deep boot that expands into a big and practical cargo area with one or all three rear seats folded.

However, as you might expect of a value champion, the plastics used inside are tough rather than classy; preferable, though, to the sometimes shiny and easily-scratched materials on the previous Kalos/Aveo.

Typically, Chevrolet's low asking prices don't short-change on features, either: even LS-entry trim comes with air-con, cruise-control, electric and heated door mirrors, electric front windows and six airbags – contributing to a maximum five-star EuroNCAP safety rating.

Mid-spec LT trim (from £11,535) gets you into alloys, steering-wheel audio controls and more, while flagship LTZ (from £12,735) is quite luxurious, and all come with Chevrolet's five-year/100,000-mile warranty.

On top of all this, though, the Aveo is a decent drive, which doesn't harm the brand's aim to target younger buyers who demand both value and fun.

The car's all-new chassis feels taut on the road, yet not at the expense of ride quality, and cabin noise is low for this class.

All engines are new and economical: the 85bhp 1.2-litre entry-level petrol model is the best-seller but feels slightly underpowered; keen drivers will prefer the 99bhp 1.4-litre (from £12,735) petrol tested here.

The stand-out engine, though, is the low-emission 1.3-litre diesel, available with 74bhp and 94bhp outputs and five- or six-speed box. It's smooth, refined and economical (from £12,585) and even available as an LT Ecodiesel model (£13,035), with an official combined fuel consumption of 78.4 against 74.3mpg for the standard equivalent.

It's a close call on value – it's pricier and both manual diesel versions have low-enough CO_2 emissions to escape road tax.

There is also a six-speed auto option for the 1.4 petrol model, but the changes are jerky and I can't recommend it.

Nevertheless, along with the robust rather than lavish cabin materials, it is one of the few things for which this bold and stylish Chevrolet supermini can be criticised.

And that speaks highly for the model's competitiveness in the biggest and toughest UK motor sector at a time when buyers are looking to downsize and economise.

CHEVROLET AVEO 1.4 LTZ: PRICE £12,735

NEW LOOK: Chevrolet's Aveo sticks out in a sector that focuses more on economy than style – but this supermini ticks both those boxes

FACT FILE

Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Best rival:	Ford Fiesta

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First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS

Racy Leon to hit the streets

SEAT wowed the Geneva Motor Show with a first – a three-door variant of its new third-generation Leon hatchback.

The Leon SC, which retains the same boot capacity as its five-door sister while gaining rakish coupé looks, arrives later this year when it is joined by another first from the VW-owned Spanish marque – a Leon estate or ST model.

Expansion of Civic's duties

HONDA has confirmed that its newly-unveiled Civic Tourer (estate) concept will underpin a production model and be joined by a Type R performance flagship for the range.

Drawing on the existing hatchback design, launched in 2011, the Tourer will be a sleek yet more versatile option for Civic-buyers, not seen since the Aerodeck model produced several Civic generations ago.

Octavia load-lugger is due

SKODA has confirmed prices from £16,790 for the bigger and more luxurious new-generation Octavia Estate due soon.

Commanding a reasonable £800 premium over equivalent hatchback Octavias arriving in showrooms now, the newcomer should appeal to business users as well as private buyers due to low running costs and benefit-in-kind taxes.

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12	12	INSIGNIA CDTi EXCLUSIV 2.0 5dr, Technical Grey	£15,995
12	12	ZAFIRA EXCITE 1.8 5dr, Star Silver	£14,495
12	12	ZAFIRA TOURER TBO SRi 1.4 5dr, Carbon Flash	£16,995
Vauxhall Ex Demonstrator Commercials			**+VAT**
12	12	COMBO SPORTIVE CDTi 1.3D 5dr, Polar White	£10,695
12	12	COMBO SPORTIVE CDTi 1.6 5dr, Magnetic Silver	£11,495
12	62	VIVARO SPORTIVE 2.0 5dr, Star Silver	£14,995
Corsa Selection			**Only**
08	08	CORSA DESIGN 1.4 5dr, Star Silver	£5,495
08	08	CORSA BREEZE PLUS SEMI-AUTO 1.2 5dr, Black Sapphire	£5,995
10	10	ENERGY 1.2 3dr, Flame Red	£7,495
10	10	CORSA SRi 1.4 3dr, Silver Lake	£8,495
11	11	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3dr, Pepper Dust	£8,695
11	61	CORSA EXCITE 1.2 3dr, Lime Green	£8,995
11	11	CORSA ACTIVE 1.2 3dr, Black Sapphire	£8,995
12	12	CORSA ACTIVE A/C 1.2 5dr, Waterworld Blue	£9,995
12	12	CORSA VXR 1.6 3dr, Arden Blue	£14,495
12	12	CORSA EXCLUSIV CDTi 1.3 5dr, Flame Red	£9,995
12	61	CORSA S 1.0 3dr, Flame Red	£7,995
Agila Selection			**Only**
11	61	AGILA SE 1.2 5dr, Blaze Red	£8,495
Astra Selection			**Only**
07	07	ASTRA SRi X PACK 1.8 5dr, Black Sapphire	£5,495
08	58	ASTRA SXi 1.6 5dr, Black Sapphire	£5,995
09	59	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 5dr, Blue	£6,995
11	61	ASTRA SE 1.6 5dr, Silver Lake	£10,995
11	61	ASTRA GTC TBO 1.6 3dr, White	£14,995
12	62	ASTRA EXCLUSIV 1.4 5dr, Waterworld	£12,995
Meriva Selection			**Only**
06	06	MERIVA ACTIVE 1.4 5dr, Black Sapphire	£3,995
08	08	MERIVA DESIGN 1.6 5dr, Black Sapphire	£4,995
09	09	MERIVA CLUB 1.6 5dr, Air Blue	£5,995
Insignia Selection			**Only**
09	09	INSIGNIA SRi CDTi 2.0 4dr, Technical Grey	£10,995
09	59	INSIGNIA SRi TBO 2.0 4dr, Black Sapphire	£9,995
Zafira Selection			**Only**
09	09	ZAFIRA BREEZE+ 1.8 5dr, Metro Blue	£8,495
10	60	ZAFIRA ACTIVE 1.8 5dr, Waterworld	£9,995
11	61	ZAFIRA EXCITE 1.8 5dr, Silver	£9,995
DUE SOON			**Only**
10	60	AGILA DESIGN 1.2 5dr, Moroccan Blue	£6,995
10	10	CORSA ENERGY 1.2 3dr, White	£6,995
06	56	ASTRA ESTATE DESIGN CDTi 1.7 5dr, Star Silver	£5,495
07	57	ASTRA DESIGN AUTO 1.8 5dr, Ultra Blue	£4,995
10	10	ASTRA EXCLUSIV CDTi 1.7 5dr, Waterworld	£9,995
10	60	ASTRA SE TBO 1.4 5dr, Star Silver	£10,495
10	60	ZAFIRA ENERGY 1.6 5dr, Black Sapphire	£8,995
COMMERCIALS			**+VAT**
12	12	COMBO SPORTIVE 1.3 5dr, Black Sapphire	£9,995
12	12	ASTRAVAN CDTi SPORTIVE 1.7 D 3dr, Star Silver	£10,995
12	12	MOVANO L3 H2 CDTi 2.3 5dr, White	£16,995
11	61	VIVARO SWB SPORTIVE CDTi 2.0 5dr, Star Silver	£12,995
12	12	VIVARO SPORTIVE LWB 2.0 5dr, Star Silver	£13,995
Other Makes Used Selection			**Only**
05	05	HYUNDAI ACCENT 1.6 5dr, Blue	£1,999
06	06	MERCEDES-BENZ CLK 200 2dr, Blue	£9,995
06	06	PEUGEOT 107 1.0 5dr, Yellow	£3,995
04	04	KANGOO AUTHENTIC WHEELCHAIR ACCESS 1.2 5dr, Red	£3,995
05	05	RENAULT SCENIC EXPRESSION 1.6 5dr, Silver	£3,000
08	08	TOYOTA AVENSIS 1.8 4dr, Grey	£5,495
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05	05	CORSA BREEZE 1.2 5dr, Flame Red	£2,995
05	05	ASTRA SXi 1.6 5dr, Flame Red	£4,495
07	07	ASTRA SPORT TWINTOP 1.8 2dr, Panacotta	£4,995
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03	03	VOLKSWAGEN POLO 1.4 5dr, Silver	£3,250
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DUE SOON			**Only**
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Representative Example	
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Customer Deposit	£500
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10	**Corsa 1.2 16V SE 5dr** Metro Blue	£7,995
11	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Exclusiv A/C 3dr** White	£7,995
11	**Corsa 1.3 CDTi Exclusiv A/C 3dr** Black	£8,295
61	**Corsa 1.4 16V SXi A/C 5dr** Technical Grey	£8,295
61	**Corsa 1.4 16V SXi A/C 5dr** Technical Grey	£8,295
12	**Corsa 1.2 16V SE 5dr** Black	£8,495
11	**Corsa 1.4 16V SE Automatic 3dr** Black	£8,595
61	**Corsa 1.4 16V SRi 100PS 5dr** Black	£9,495
61	**Corsa 1.4 16V SE Automatic 5dr** Sovereign Silver	£9,495
61	**Corsa 1.2 16V Limited Edition 3dr** Black	£9,995
12	**Corsa 1.2 16V Limited Edition 3dr** Yellow	£10,995
12	**Corsa 1.4 16V SRi 100PS 3dr** Power Red	£10,995

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59	**Astra 1.6 16V SE 5dr** Silver Lake	£8,995
10	**Astra 1.6 16V SRi 5dr** Black	£9,295
10	**Astra 1.6 16V SRi Turbo 180 5dr** Black	£9,295
61	**Astra 1.4 16V Excluiv 5dr** Silver Lake	£9,495
61	**Astra 1.4 16V Excluiv 5dr** Black	£9,495
11	**Astra 1.6 16V Excluiv Auto 5dr** Technical Grey	£9,995
10	**Astra 1.6 16V SRi 5dr** Black	£9,995
59	**Astra 1.4 16V SRi** Sovereign Silver	£10,395
11	**Astra 1.6 16V SRi 5dr** Power Red	£11,495
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59	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi Auto 5dr** Technical Grey	£10,995
11	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SE 5dr** Technical Grey	£11,495
61	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 SRi 5dr** Sovereign Silver	£13,995
61	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 130 SRi Estate 5dr** Olympic White	£14,995
12	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 VX Line Nav 5dr** Black	£14,995
12	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 VX Line SRi 5dr** Black	£15,495
61	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 Exclusiv Auto 4dr** Technical Grey	£15,795
12	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 VX Line Nav 5dr** Power Red	£16,495
12	**Insignia 2.0 CDTi 160 VX Line Nav 5dr** Power Red	£16,995
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59	**Zafira 1.6 16V Life 5dr** Green Spirit	£7,995
59	**Zafira 1.6 16V Exclusiv 5dr** Metro Blue	£7,995
59	**Zafira 1.6 16V Design 5dr** Silver	£7,995
60	**Zafira 1.8 16V SRi 5dr** Metro Blue	£9,995
59	**Zafira 1.7 CDTi 110 Exclusiv 5dr** Metro Blue	£8,995
12	**Zafira 1.8 16V Design 5dr** Technical Grey	£11,000
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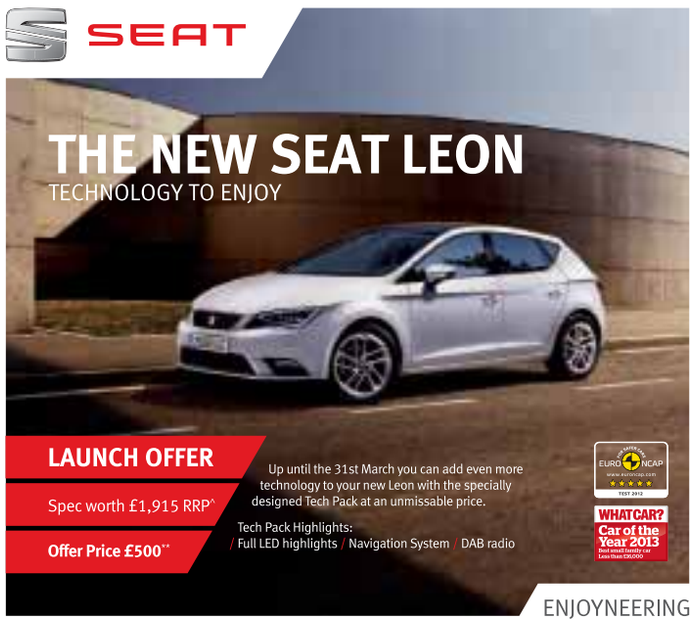

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For an application pack, please write to / telephone (stating the role for which you are applying):

Mrs Linda Taylor, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent. ME2 3SP (01634 338236)

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Closing date for applications:
3.00p.m. on Friday, 22nd March.

Fort Pitt Grammar School, part of the Fort Pitt Academy Trust, is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEQM Hospital site.
We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurses (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available
Closing date for applications - 29 March 2013

To discuss this opportunity or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:

Qualifications
Registered Nurse 1st Level
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Teaching and Assessing Course or equivalent (desirable)

To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact

Sue Jones - 01843 234555 Ext: 62207

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards, East Kent Medical Services Ltd,
The Spencer Private Hospital, 2nd Floor, Atina House,
Bench Street, Dover, Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245951

Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer.
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check

spencer private hospital

The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEQM Hospital site.

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To manage our Physiotherapy Department and maintain clinical skills with our in-patient and out-patient activity, primarily at Margate but across both sites.
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Full Time
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Bsc Physiotherapy or equivalent and post grad experience required

Closing date for both applications - 29 March 2013
To discuss these opportunities or to arrange an informal visit, please contact
Mary Guarnieri, Matron - 01843 234252

For job description and application form please contact:
Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
The Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, Atina House, Bench Street, Dover
Kent CT16 1JH

Telephone: 01304 245951 Fax: 01304 207320

E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com
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• FACULTY LEADER of MATHS - L1 to L6 • FACULTY LEADER OF ENGLISH - L1 to L6
• CATERING TEACHER - M1 to M6 + SEN

All posts are from September 2013

The successful candidates will have the following:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills and experience of teaching
- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
- have the ability work effectively within a team
- teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4
- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

Application form, Job Descriptions and for further details about our school please visit our website on www.westheathschool.com or contact Lynne McGrath on lynne.mcgrath@westheathschool.com or tel 01732 460 553

Please come along to The New School on Wednesday 20th March between 6 pm & 7 pm for an informal meeting and tour of our School

Closing date for applications **22nd March 2013**

The successful applicants will be subject to an Enhanced CRB check.

The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Romney Marsh Day Centre

Charity No 1093388

Manager Required

37.5 Hours per week
Monday - Friday
some degree of flexibility will be required

Salary £30,000 (neg)

Depending On Qualifications & Experience

The Romney Marsh Day Centre is a local independent charity working to make later life an enjoyable and fulfilling experience for older people in the area.

We are looking for an individual who is able to provide leadership and vision to the organisation, its trustees, staff and volunteers.

You will advise and guide our trustees and implement their decisions, whilst managing the organisation and its resources, to ensure we deliver high quality services.

In addition, you will raise our profile and address the issues affecting older people in order to influence policy-making and respond to need in the area.

To be successful, you will demonstrate experience of leading an organisation and project managing development, possess the ability to generate sustainable income streams and demonstrate knowledge and awareness of social policy issues affecting older people.

Due to the nature of the role an Enhanced CRB check is required.

Closing date: Friday 5th April 2013.

Interview commencing Monday 29th April 2013.

For an application pack, please contact Jane Caryl on 01797 363888, email: jane.caryl@rmdc.co.uk or visit our website www.rmdc.co.uk

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Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act (2004)

Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)

Regulations 2012 - Regulation 18

Tunbridge Wells Borough Site Allocations Development Plan Document Consultation Draft

Notice of public participation on the Consultation Draft

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council is currently preparing the following Development Plan Document as part of its Local Development Framework:

- **Site Allocations Development Plan Document (DPD)** - to provide site allocations for Tunbridge Wells Borough. The Site Allocations DPD allocates sites for development and those which should be protected from development. The DPD aims to meet the general requirements set out in the adopted Core Strategy for the period to 2026.
- **Sustainability Appraisal** - to qualitatively assess the development proposals in the DPD against 15 sustainability objectives.

Public consultation commences on **Monday 18 March 2013** and runs for 10 weeks until **Friday 24 May 2013**. The Borough Council will host a series of exhibitions at various locations around the Borough during April. The dates and venues for these are as follows:

Date	Venue	Times
Monday 15 April	Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells*	10am to 4pm
Tuesday 16 April	Wesley Centre, Commercial Road, Paddock Wood	4pm to 8pm
Wednesday 17 April	British Legion, Unity Hall, High Street, Hawkhurst	4pm to 8pm
Thursday 18 April	The Ark, Gallard's Almshouses, London Road, Southborough	4pm to 8pm
Thursday 18 April	United Reformed Church Hall, Hawkenbury, Royal Tunbridge Wells	3pm to 8pm
Friday 19 April	Vestry Hall, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook	2.30pm to 8pm
Saturday 20 April	Royal Victoria Place, Royal Tunbridge Wells*	10am to 4pm

* please check our website nearer to the date for details of the precise location in Royal Victoria Place

The consultation will consist of consultation documents and response forms, which can be viewed and downloaded, along with the supporting documentation, at **www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/allocations**, or you can respond directly online at **http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk**. The documents can also be viewed at the following locations for those without access to a computer:

- **Tunbridge Wells Gateway**, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, TN1 2AB. The Gateway is open from 9am-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday; 9am-6.30pm on Thursdays; and 9am-1.30pm on Saturdays
- **Weald Information Centre**, The Old Fire Station, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HF, open from 8.30am-5pm (Monday to Friday)
- **All libraries** in the Tunbridge Wells Borough area. Please check with the particular library for opening times

Representations can be returned as follows:

1) Online at **http://consult.tunbridgewells.gov.uk**

2) By e-mail to **planning.policy@tunbridgewells.gov.uk** (using the editable response form)

3) By post to Planning Policy, Planning Services, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS (using a printed response form)

4) By fax to 01892 554076 (using a printed response form)

Representations must be made in writing (including electronically) and be received by **midnight on Friday 24 May** at the addresses specified in (1) to (4) above. All representations made in the above ways will be taken into account in the preparation of the Site Allocations DPD. For more information, please go to **www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk/allocations.**

TUNBRIDGE WELLS BOROUGH COUNCIL

LICENSING OF HACKNEY CARRIAGES NOTICE OF PROPOSED ISSUE OF ONE (1) NEW HACKNEY CARRIAGE VEHICLE LICENCE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council invites requests for an application from any person wishing to apply for the wheel chair accessible Hackney Carriage Vehicle Licence (HC95) that has been returned to the Council.

Application forms can be obtained from the Licensing Department, Town Hall, Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS Tel No. 01892 554034

ALL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE RECEIVED BY THE LICENSING DEPARTMENT, TOWN HALL,TUNBRIDGE WELLS, TN1 1RS BY NO LATER THAN 4: 30pm **ON FRIDAY 3RD MAY 2013.** NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Should there be any questions in relation to this, please telephone the Senior Licensing Officer on 01892 554034 between 9.00am and 4.30pm.

THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL
Town and Country Planning Act
Notice of Applications

MA/11/1481/S - LAND SOUTH OF 1, BELL LANE, STAPLEHURST, KENT, TN12 0BA - Demolition of existing garage blocks and the erection of six two-bedroom elderly persons bungalows with associated parking and private amenity space, together with the alteration/improvement of the existing vehicular access from Bell Lane as shown on drawing nos. BL/01, K10/0176/001/B, K10/0176/014/A, K10/0176/015/A, design and access statement, extended phase 1 habitat survey and Great Crested Newt and Reptile Survey received 30/08/2011, drawing K10/0176/011/B and transport statement received 10/10/2011 and drawing nos. K10/0176/12revH, K10/0176/013revC, arboricultural implications assessment and method statement and Great crested newt mitigation strategy received 24/05/2012. **Reason: 1, 2, 9**

MA/12/2202/S - THE HARROW INN, THE STREET, ULCOMBE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1DP - An application for listed building consent for alterations to facilitate the conversion of existing A4 public house to C3 dwelling and A4 public house and the erection of two storey extension to provide ancillary staff accommodation. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0201/S - REGISTRAR OF BIRTHS DEATHS AND, ARCHBISHOP PALACE, MILL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6YE - Installation of wrought iron gates to central tower. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0274/N - BOXLEY CHURCH HALL, THE STREET, BOXLEY, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3DX - Conversion of church hall to two dwellings. **Reason: 2**

MA/13/0288/S - ELMSCROFT HOUSE, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NY - Amended scheme to Listed Building Consent MA/12/1929 (An application for listed building consent for installation of a new biomass boiler room within an existing garage and workshop building. Replacement of existing asbestos roof with new roofing system with two new stainless steel flues projecting through the roof. Reworking of the basement boiler room within Elmscroft house. Installing a new underground district main between the new boiler room and the existing basement boiler room within the grade II listed main house. New radiator valves to central heating system and increased mineral quilt insulation to loft areas of main building) relating to change to flues to provide a single flue of greater height. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0289/S - ELMSCROFT HOUSE, CHARLTON LANE, WEST FARLEIGH, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 0NY - Amended scheme to planning permission MA/12/1928 (Replacement of asbestos roof to existing garage with new roofing system with two new stainless steel flues to serve new biomass boilers and associated works) relating to change to flues to provide a single flue of greater height. **Reason: 1**

MA/13/0297/S - BALTIC WHARF, ST PETERS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0ST - Detailed planning permission for the change of use of, and alterations and additions to, the existing Powerhub building to provide a mix of Class A1 (foodstore), A2 (professional and financial services), A3 (cafes and restaurants), B1 (employment) and D2 (assembly and leisure) uses; and outline permission, with all matters reserved except for access, for a new building for Class A1 (foodstore) use with associated car parking, and other operational development including provision of pedestrian and vehicular access and a new riverside walkway; together with demolition of Raglan House and other buildings and structures and demolition of parts of the Powerhub building. **Reason: 1, 6, 7, 9**

MA/13/0298/S - BALTIC WHARF, ST PETERS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 0ST - Listed Building Consent for demolition of parts of the Powerhub building and works to facilitate the refurbishment and re-use of the building including removal, reconstruction and reconfiguration of the north wing, removal of stairwell and lift shaft to the east elevation, removal of electrical switchgear building, removal of central south wing (lift shaft), internal reconfiguration including removal of walls, removal of fifth floor and lift tower, refurbishment of roof, repairs, refenestration, removal of floor sections, addition of circulation core, removal of infill panels to the east and south, demolition of Raglan House and other structures within the curtilage of the Powerhub building and associated works. **Reason: 3**

MA/13/0304/N - CALDICOTTS, THE STREET, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4EL - Erection of a single storey side extension, first floor infill side extension, insertion of 2 no. rooflights, 1 no. first floor window to existing flank wall and removal of existing garage door to be replaced with iron gates. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/13/0307/N - 59, WEEK STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1QU - Installation of a new shop front. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:
1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
6 - Application is Major Development.
7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
9 - Application does not accord with the Local Plan.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **31st March 2013,** quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 17th March 2013

Public Notice
Canterbury City Council licensing of sex establishments.

The Bing, 11, Dover Street, Canterbury CT1 3HD. We, Canongate Enterprises LLP of 84, High Street, Broadstairs, Kent CT10 1JJ, hereby give notice that we have applied to Canterbury City Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 for a licence to use the premises referred to above as a sexual entertainment venue.

A register of licensing applications can be inspected at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/licensing or at Council Offices, Military Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 1YW tel. 01227 862000 by appointment with the Business Support Team, between 10am and 4pm Monday to Friday.

Any person wishing to submit representations to our application must give notice in writing to the address shown above; giving in general terms the grounds of objection by 07/04/2013

To advertise in this section
01303 817056

PLANNING

Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00308/FUL **3 Clockhouse Mews Swaylands, Bidborough**
- Use of part of outbuilding as garage (retrospective) (LB)

13/00471/FUL **Hartlands Sophurst Lane, Brenchley**
- Change of use of land to driveway to link vehicular and pedestrian accesses (LB)

13/00435/HOUSE **Mockbeggar House Wilsley Green, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst**
- Wooden garden room (LB) (CA)

13/00493/HOUSE **Summerhill House 73 London Road, Culverden**
- Relocation of gate post. Install two wrought iron gates (LB) (CA)

13/00496/LBC **Summerhill House 73 London Road, Culverden**
- Listed Building Consent: Relocation of gate post. Install two wrought iron gates (LB)

13/00492/HOUSE **Gills Green Barn Wellington Road, Hawkhurst**
- Detached garage (LB)

13/00448/LBC **2 Jerningham House 18 Mount Sion, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Listed Building Consent: Strengthening of second floor/first floor bathroom ceiling joists. Position of partition walls altered (not original structure). Ground floor beam and joists strengthened (LB)

13/00489/FUL **National Federation Of Meat & Food Traders 1 Belgrove, Pantiles & St Marks**
- Change of use and conversion of 1st and 2nd floor offices to form a residential unit (CA)

13/00466/HOUSE **Shandon Lodge Pembury Road, Park**
- Demolition of conservatory and replace with a single storey extension (CA)

13/00226/LBC **April Cottage Rye Road, Sandhurst**
- Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations comprising: Removal of fibreboard cladding to internal walls and replacement with plasterboard skimmed with gypsum plaster; Reinstatement of roof light to rear of property using Conservation roof light; Replacement of painted softwood ladder style staircase from ground to first floor with oak staircase; Removal of blockwork cupboard to top of bread oven and repair to centre of the dome of the oven using original bricks (LB)

13/00330/OUTMJ **1 - 66 Kemble Close 1 - 66 Silwood Close Lakeside 14 - 100 Greggs Wood Road, Sherwood**
- Minor Material Amendment in relation to TW/12/00201 - Hybrid planning application for the demolition of 176 x 2 bed flats across 16 residential blocks including 3 x retail units and associated flats above and construction of up to 257 residential units for phases 1, 2, 3 and 4. Part Detailed: Phase 1 comprising of demolition of 66 dwellings at 1-66 Kemble Close and erection of 63 residential units, consisting of affordable rent, shared ownership and private sale units, with associated parking and landscaping. Part Outline: Phase 2, 3 and 4 including the demolition of 1-66 Silwood Close, 14-100 Greggs Wood Road (even property numbers only) including 3 x retail units and associated flats above and erection of up to 194 residential units (including up to 45 homes for older people) approximately 300 sq.m of retail floor space, allocated parking, landscaping, means of access, with matters relating to layout, scale, appearance and landscaping to be reserved - the addition of a roof dormer to provide easily accessible circulation space to the top floor of the apartments (MAJOR)

13/00488/FULMJ **The Pines Sherwood Park, Sherwood**
- Demolition of existing day centre and 4 No. four-bedroom supported-living bungalows (Class C2); Construction of purpose-built supported-living care facility comprising single building containing 16 No. one-bedroom supported-living units, communal facilities and staff facilities (Class C2) (MAJOR) (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman

Head of Planning Services,
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS

Dated: 16 March 2013

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Swale Borough Council

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

Swale Borough Council as Local Planning Authority has received the following applications which are being advertised to ascertain the views of persons living near the sites and other interested parties. The proposed developments relate to one or more of the following:

1. The site of the application is within/affecting a designated Conservation Area (Section 73) of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.
2. The proposed development may affect the Listed Building or it's setting.
3. The application is for a Major Development.
4. The application would affect a right of way to which Part III of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) applies.

REPRESENTATIONS IN RESPECT OF THE FOLLOWING APPLICATIONS MUST BE MADE BY 01 APRIL 2013

SW/13/0175 &
SW/13/0176:
New single storey extension to the rear of the Annexe, all to match existing finishes - Boughton Church House, South Street, BOUGHTON; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0182:
Change of use from Use Class A1 (shops) to Use Class A2 (Financial and Professional Services) - 82-84 High Street, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0203:
Extension to time limit of approved SW/09/0118 for extension of Kent Science Park to accommodate up to 12,000m2 of Class B1 business development including - (i) ancillary buildings; (ii) parking; (iii) landscaping; (iv) associated infrastructure; (v) detailed approval for new building of 2,852m2 to include (a) ancillary buildings; (b) parking; (c) landscaping; (d) extension to Shimmin Road; (e) extension to security fence with CCTV cameras and (f) associated infrastructure - Land off Shimmin Road/Bir Road, Kent Science Park, Broadoak Road, SITTINGBOURNE; **REASON 3**

SW/13/0219 &
SW/13/0227:
Single storey rear extension, replacement windows, provision of door in place of window, internal alterations to ground floor - The Old Vicarage, Conyer Road, TEYNHAM; **REASON 2**

SW/13/0233:
Listed Building Consent for proposed removal of front staircase & associated partitions, replacement of one entrance door set to shop with automatic doors, and alterations to first floor layout to provide additional storage area - 12 Market Place, FAVERSHAM; **REASONS 1 & 2**

SW/13/0236:
Single storey side kitchen extension - Dreambark Cottage, Bexon Lane, BREDGAR; **REASON 1**

SW/13/0239:
Proposed new vehicular access - Hegdale Mushroom Farm, Ashford Road, Badlesmere; **REASON 4**

Particulars of the proposal(s) can be obtained from Planning Services, Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, where copies of the applications and all documents submitted with them may be inspected during office hours; any representations should be made in writing to this address.

James Freeman
Head of Planning

Folkestone

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y13/0190/SH - South Cottage and Hunters Gate Old Road Elham Canterbury Kent - Felling of 10 trees situated within a conservation area.

Y13/0147/SH# - Communications Mast E & P Engineering Services Learoyd Road Mountfield Industrial Estate New Romney - Erection of a replacement 15 metre high monopole together with additional equipment cabinets (telecommunications development 56 day notification).

Y13/0155/SH - Communications Mast adjoining Allotment Gardens Ashford Road Newington Kent - Replacement of 7 existing antennae with 6 new antennae and 2 600mm diameter dishes, (telecommunications development).

Y13/0169/SH+ - Briarwood 1 Blackhouse Hill Hythe Kent CT21 5UL - Erection of a part 3/part 2 storey block with room in the roof comprising 2 apartments, 1 maisonette and 4 dwelling houses with associated parking facilities following demolition of existing building.

Y13/0170/SH - Land rear 4 Risborough Way Folkestone Kent - Erection of a detached two storey dwelling with first floor set within roof space and dormer windows to west facing roof slope and provision of associated car parking space (resubmission of application Y12/0871/SH).

Y13/0175/SH* - Eversley College & Eversley Lodge Coolinge Lane Folkestone Kent CT20 3QS - Change of use and conversion of boarding college/school (Class C2) building to form 23 apartments, including alteration and extension of building, erection of associated detached two storey building to provide cycle storage with separate apartment above, erection of 17 two and three storey dwellings on part of college/school playing field with associated access, garages and parking, erection of single and two storey extensions to existing detached lodge building in connection with use as a dwelling, use of part of playing field to provide car parking and playing field areas for Sandgate Primary School and provision of parking and communal garden areas to apartments/dwellings (resubmission of application Y12/0838/SH).

Y13/0141/SH+ - Telecommunications Mast Hythe Cricket and Squash Club Ladies Walk Hythe Kent - Installation of 6 replacement antennas and 2 600 mm dish antennas following removal of existing dish, (telecommunications development).

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

\+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Planning applications

Canterbury City Council

Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA//12/02263/FUL: St George's Street, Canterbury Additional days to St George's Street market in November, December and January 2013 and 2014 for Christmas season trading. **Applicant: Canterbury City Council** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00130/FUL: 14 Saddleton Road, Whitstable, CT5 4JD Erection of garden shed. **Applicant: Ms H English** Reason: Conservation Area.
CA//13/00286/FUL: 104 Spenser Road, Herne Bay, CT6 6AR Proposed extension to detached garage and change of use to form annexe. **Applicant: Mr M Cusden** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00289/FUL: Land at Little Hall Farm, St Stephen's Hill, Hackington Change of use and development of a crematorium with associated parking, access and landscaping including memorial gardens for the scattering of ashes. **Applicant: Mercia Crematoria Developments Ltd** Reason: Major and conservation area.
CA//13/00373/FUL: Christmas Tree Cottage, 22 Bekesbourne Lane, Littlebourne, CT3 1UY Single-storey ground floor extension. **Applicant: Mr Jonathan Berry** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00383/FUL: 23 Joy Lane, Whitstable, CT5 4LT Replacement uPVC conservatory and alterations to rear balcony door. **Applicant: Professor and Mrs Beaton** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00384/FUL: 24 South Canterbury Road, Canterbury, CT1 3LJ Loft conversion incorporating dormer and Juliet balcony. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs T Dobrashian** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00385/LB: 49 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SE New signage. **Applicant: Lloyds Banking Group** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00395/ADV: 49 High Street, Canterbury, CT1 2SE 3 x sets of face illuminated built-up letters, 2 x internally illuminated projecting signs, 1 x non-illuminated nameplate, 1 x reverse applied vinyl, 1 x non-illuminated letter box signage. **Applicant: Lloyd's Banking Group** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00400/FUL: 35 St Margaret's Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TG Change of use to upper floors to form separate two bedroom apartment. **Applicant: Incafield** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00407/ADV: Whitstable Tennis Club, West Beach, Whitstable, CT5 1EH Erection of four windbreak advertisements on west boundary of site. **Applicant: Canterbury City Council** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00408/FUL: Craddock House, Craddock Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YR Erection of temporary outbuilding. **Applicant: Porchlight** Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA//13/00412/FUL: 30 Nunnery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3JT Single-storey rear extension; conversion of garage to habitable space; and tile hanging to first floor front and rear elevations. **Applicant: Mr and Mrs Weston** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00417/ADV: 18 Whitefriars Street, Canterbury, CT1 2TD Installation of various illuminated and non-illuminated signage. **Applicant: Lloyd's Banking Group** Reason: Conservation area.
CA//13/00421/FUL: 3 Argyle Road, Whitstable, CT5 1JS Erection of detached dwelling. (Revised scheme). **Applicant: A E Ansley (Builders) Ltd** Reason: Conservation area.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to **development.management@canterbury.gov.uk** to arrive on or before **Monday 8 April 2013.**

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: **www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc**

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 15 March 2013

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE270, AE272, AE302, AE305, AE310. IN THE PARISH OF BRABOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE270, AE272, AE302, AE305, AE310 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths AE270, AE272, AE302, AE305 and AE310 from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way AE270 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath AE272 at NGR TR101, 404 and its junction with Public Footpath AE273 at NGR TR096, 404.

Public Right of Way AE272 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath AE270 at NGR TR101, 404 and its junction with Public Footpath AE268 at NGR TR096, 408.

Public Right of Way AE302 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath AE301 at NGR TR106, 409 and its junction with Public Footpath AE305 at NGR TR105, 414.

Public Right of Way AE305 will be closed from its junction with AE310 at NGR TR103, 415 and its junction with Public Footpath AE301 at NGR TR109, 412.

Public Right of Way AE310 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath AE270 at NGR TR102, 404 and its junction with Public Footpath AE302 at NGR TR103, 415.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the path will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

PROW - IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CC36, CC42, CC35, CC34 AND CB330 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY AND PARISH OF BEKESBOURNE-WITH-PATRIXBOURNE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CC36, CC42, CC35, CC34 AND CB330 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths CC36, CC42, CC35, CC34 and CB330 from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way CC36 will be closed from its junction with CC37, approximately 45 metres south east of Stodmarsh Rd to its junction with CB149 approximately 90 metres north of Littlebourne Rd.

Public Right of Way CC35 will be closed from its junction with Littlebourne Rd to its junction with CC32 at NGR TR178, 574.

Public Right of Way CC42 will be closed from its junction with CC43 at NGR TR178 567 to Dorset Rd.

Public Right of Way CC34 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath CC33 at NGR TR177 571 to its junction with CB330 at NGR TR181 571.

Public Right of Way CB330 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath CC34 at NGR TR181 571 to its junction with CB150A at NGR TR184, 569.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There are no alternative routes.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210.

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB279A IN THE PARISH OF BISHOPSBOURNE

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB279A (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway CB279A, at its junction with Public Footpath CB293 at NGR TR168 500 and its junction with Public Footpath CB294 at NGR TR167 500 from the 31st March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the path will be available when work schedules permit access.

The path is to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210.

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CB163, CC23, CB165 AND CB166 IN THE CITY OF CANTERBURY AND THE PARISH OF FORDWICH

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS CB163, CC23, CB165 AND CB166 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths CB163, CC23, CB165 and CB166, from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way CC23 will be closed between its junction with Public Right of Way CB163 at NGR TR173 592 and point NGR TR170 590.

Public Right of Way CB163 will be closed between its junction with Public Right of Way CC23 at NGR TR173 592 and point NGR TR175 593.

Public Right of Way CB165 will be closed between its junction with Moat Lane and its junction with Public Footpath CB166 at NGR TR178 587.

Public right of Way CB166 will be closed between its junction with CB165 at NGR TR178 587 and its junction with Moat Lane.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS CB351, CB352, CB353, CB309 AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB308 IN THE PARISHES OF LOWER HARDRES AND BRIDGE

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAYS CB351, CB352, CB309 AND PUBLIC FOOTPATH CB308 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleways CB351, CB352, CB353, CB309 and Public Footpath CB308 from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way CB351 will be closed between its junction with Public Footpath CB307 at NGR TR162, 537, and its junction with Public Bridleway CB309 at NGR TR162, 533.

Public Right of Way CB352 will be closed at its junction with Public Footpath CB307 at NGR TR162, 537, in a Westerly direction for approximately 370 meters to point NGR TR159, 535.

Public Right of Way CB353 will be closed between its junction with Public Bridleway CB351 at NGR TR162, 533 and its junction with Public Footpath CB288A at NGR TR158, 530.

Public Right of Way CB309 will be closed between its junction with Public Bridleway CB351 at NGR TR162, 533 and its junction with Public Footpath CB288A at NGR TR160, 529.

Public Right of Way CB308 will be closed between its junction with Bridge Road and its junction with Public Bridleway CB351 at NGR TR161, 542.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There are no alternative routes.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB381 IN THE PARISH OF UPPER HARDRES

PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY CB381 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Bridleway CB381, between Pett Bottom Road and Kingswood Street from the 31st March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the path will be available when work schedules permit access.

The path is to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210.

PROW - IN THE BORORUGH OF TONBRIDGE AND MALLING

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY MR21 IN THE PARISH OF BURHAM

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY MR21) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984, SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Right of Way MR21, between Rochester Road and Common Road from the 2nd April 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before June 2013.

The path is to be closed because works are planned on it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Michele Snoding on 0845 3450210

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE28, HE29 AND HE114 IN THE PARISHES OF ELHAM AND STELLING MINNIS

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE28, HE29 AND HE114 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths HE28, HE29 and HE114 from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way HE28 will be closed between Fryarne Park Road and Elham Park Road.

Public Right of Way HE29 will be closed between its junction with Wheelbarrow Town and its junction with Elhampark Wood at NGR TR157 459.

Public Right of Way HE114 will be closed between Wheelbarrow Town and Droveway.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH HE34 IN THE PARISHES OF ELMSTED & STELLING MINNIS

PUBLIC FOOTPATH HE34 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpath HE34, between Stone Street and Sandy Lane from the 31st March 2013.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the path will be available when work schedules permit access.

The path is to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near it and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact: Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE27 AND HE45 IN THE PARISHES OF STELLING MINNIS AND LYMINGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE27 AND HE45 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths HE27 and HE45, from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way HE27 will be closed between South Lodge Road and Fryarne Park Road.

Public Right of Way HE45 will be closed between High Minnis Road and point NGR TR150 451, approximately 270 metres into Park Wood.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE151, HE152 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY HE36 IN THE PARISH OF STOWTING

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS HE151, HE152 AND PUBLIC BRIDLEWAY HE36

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths HE151 and HE152 and Public Bridleway HE36, from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way HE151 will be closed between its junction with Stone Street and its junction with Public Footpath HE150 at NGR TR127, 436.

Public Right of Way HE152 will be closed between Stowting Hill and Brabourne Lane.

Public Right of Way HE36 will be closed between its junction with Stone Street and its junction with Public Footpath HE150 at NGR TR126, 433.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There are no alternative routes.

For detailed enquiries please contact Louise Adams on 0845 3450210

PROW - IN THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY AND BROUGH OF ASHFORD

NOTICE OF THE INTENTION TO MAKE AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE/427/HE304, AE441/HE307, HE307/AE440 IN THE PARISHES OF SMEETH AND SELLINDGE

PUBLIC FOOTPATHS AE/427/HE304, AE441/HE307, HE307/AE440 (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 SECTION 14(1), AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to temporarily close Public Footpaths AE427/HE304, AE441/HE307, HE307/AE440 from the 31st March 2013.

Public Right of Way AE427 will be closed from its junction with HE304 at NGR TR097 397 to its junction with Public Footpath AE273 at NGR TR093 400.

Public Right of Way HE304 will be closed from its junction with Southenay Lane to its junction with Public Footpath AE427 at NGR TR097 397.

Public Right of Way HE307 will be closed from its junction with Stone Hill to its junction with Public Footpath AE441 at NGR TR089 391.

Public Right of Way AE441 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath HE307 at NGR TR089 391, to its junction with Lilyvale.

Public Right of Way HE307 will be closed from its junction with Stone Hill to its junction with Public Footpath AE440 at NGR TR087 389.

Public Right of Way AE440 will be closed from its junction with Public Footpath HE307 at NGR TR087 389 and its junction with Hythe Road.

The paths will be closed for a maximum of six months. However it is expected that the paths will be available when work schedules permit access.

The paths are to be closed because overhead power line refurbishment works are planned near them and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

There is no alternative route.

For detailed enquiries please contact Edward Denne on 0845 3450210

Or for further details on temporary closures on the Rights of Way network see:

http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment_and_planning/countryside_access/traffic_regulation_orders.aspx

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

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PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY & VILLAGE GREENS

PROW - IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS

IN THE BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS
NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980

WILDLIFE AND COUNTRYSIDE ACT 1981
THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH WC21 (PART) GOUDHURST)

PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION AND DEFINITIVE MAP AND STATEMENT MODIFICATION ORDER 2012

On 28 February 2013 The Kent County Council confirmed the above Order under Section 119 of the Highways Act 1980.

The effect of that Order as confirmed is to divert the entire width of that length of public footpath numbered WC21 which commences to the west of The Glade, Old Park Wood at NGR TQ 74680 38046 (Point A) and runs in a easterly direction for 192 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of public footpath WC21 - 33 metres from its connection with the public footpath WC15 and the access track at NGR TQ 74867 38078 (Point D), and will add a new length of public footpath numbered WC21 which commences to the west of The Glade, Old Park Wood at NGR TQ 74680 38046 (Point A) and runs in a north north easterly direction for 33 metres, a north easterly direction for 100 metres to its connection with an access track and public footpath WC18 - which forms part of the diversion - at NGR TQ 74757 38151 (Point B). The path then turns to run - along the access track - in a east south easterly direction for 63 metres to NGR TQ 74818 38134 (Point C), where the path leaves the access track. The path then turns to run in a south easterly direction for 3 metres to NGR TQ 74820 38132 (Point X) where it crosses a sleeper bridge - over a drainage ditch - for a distance of 2 metres. The path then continues in a south easterly direction for 68 metres to its connection with the unaffected length of public footpath WC21 - 33 metres from its connection with the public footpath WC15 and the access track at NGR TQ 74867 38078 (Point D). As shown on the Order Plan.

Please see Part II of the Order for details relating to widths.

All directions general, all distances approximate.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the Order Map have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the Offices of Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, The Gateway, 8 Grovesnor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2BA or at the Kent County Council, Public Rights of Way and Access, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX. Copies of the Order and Map may be purchased there at the price of £5.

The Order comes into force on 28 March 2013, but if a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its validity, or that of any provision contained in it, on the ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation made under the Act which has not been complied with in relation to the Order, he or she may under Paragraph 2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by Paragraph 5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from the 17 March 2013, make an application to the High Court.

Public Rights of Way and Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent
ME14 1XX **Dated: 17th March 2013**

This document is available in alternative formats and can be explained in a range of languages.

For further information, please contact Kent Public Rights of Way and Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess

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HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSONE AREA

(VARIOUS ROADS, BOROUGH OF MAIDSTONE)
(7.5 TONNE WEIGHT RESTRICTION)

ORDER 2013
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

The Kent County Council, acting as the local traffic authority and in exercise of their powers under sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (hereinafter called the Act), and of all other enabling powers and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the said Act of 1984, hereby make the following Order:

7.5 Tonne Weight Restriction:

OLD LOOSE HILL - for its entire length, from its northern junction with A229 Loose Road to its southern junction with that road.

HIGH BANKS - from its junction with Old Loose Hill to its junction with Bus Bridge Road.

BUS BRIDGE ROAD - from its junction with High Banks to its junction with Stockett Lane.

STOCKETT LANE - from its junction with Bus Bridge Road to its junction with Straw Mill Hill.

STRAW MILL HILL - from its junction with Stockett Lane to its junction with B2010 Farleigh Hill.

The general effect of the Weight Restriction Order would be to prohibit vehicles the maximum gross weight of which exceeds 7.5 Tonnes from using that length of carriageway as detailed in the Schedule of the Notice, except for loading and unloading.

Full details of the Order, together with the relevant plans and any Orders amended by the Order and a statement of reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the Offices of Maidstone Borough Council offices, The Gateway, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone ME14 1XQ during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 17th March 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

GORE ROAD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING)
TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of an electric cable by Uk Power Networks,Kent County Council Intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gore Road , on or after 1st April 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 52 Gore Road (side road).

The alternative route is via Gore Road .

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ **Dated 17th March 2013**

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

ROMDEN ROAD, ROMDEN, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to telegraph poles to restore customer phone service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Romden Road, Smarden, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Buffalo Lane and Wissenden Lane.

The alternative route is via Buffalo Lane, Bethersden Road, Cage Lane, The Street (note that there is a 7.5 T weight restriction, and this route is unsuitable for long vehicles), Pluckley Road, Dorking Lane and Romden Road.

THE STREET, GODMERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of bridge repairs and maintenance, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Godmersham, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 5 weeks, between 19:00 hours through until 06:00 hours each weekday night.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the railway bridge.

The alternative route is via A28 Canterbury Road, Bramble Lane, Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street and Olantigh Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, CHARING, EGERTON & PLUCKLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on certain roads in Charing, Egerton and Pluckley, on or after 25 March 2013.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

BOWL ROAD, CHARING will be closed between Charing Hill and Stalisfield Road from 25 - 28 March 2013 inclusive

The alternative route is via Hart Hill, Maidstone Road & Charing Hill.

ROCK HILL ROAD / THE STREET / STONEBRIDGE GREEN ROAD, EGERTON will be closed from Malthouse Farm to the junction with Iden Lane on 25 March 2013

The alternative route is via Coach Road, Egerton House Road, Link Hill Lane & Crocken Hill Road.

SURRENDEN ROAD, PLUCKLEY will be closed between the junctions with Swan Lane and Pluckley Road on 27 & 28 March 2013

The alternative route is via Swan Lane, Forge Hill, Station Road & Dowle Street Road

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

KINGS ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kings Road, Herne Bay, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

Kings Road will be closed between the junctions with Park Road and Canterbury Road, in 2 phases as shown below.

PHASE 1 - between Park Road and Underdown Road

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Richmond Street, High Street, B2205 Canterbury Road and Kings Road

Westbound via Underdown Road, New Street, B2205 High Street, and Richmond Street

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Underdown Road will be suspended between the junctions with King's Road and Queens Gardens, to allow access.

PHASE 2 - between William Street and B2205 Canterbury Road

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Beach Street, B2205 High Street and Canterbury Road

Westbound via B2205 Canterbury Road, High Street and William Street

Various side roads will be closed at their junctions with Kings Road as the works progress, as signposted on site, with local diversions.

B2205 TANKERTON ROAD, WHITSTABLE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on B2205 Tankerton Road, Whitstable, on or after 18 March 2013, as shown below.

TANKERTON ROAD, WHITSTABLE will be closed from the Tankerton Roundabout as far as Tower Hill.

The road will be closed from Wednesday 18 March through until Thursday 28 March 2013 inclusive, but re-opened at the weekend from Friday evening until Monday morning.

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Tower Hill, Marine Parade, St Anne's Road. East

Westbound via St Anne's Road and Northwood Road

The side roads meeting Tankerton Road will be closed at their junctions with Tankerton Road, as signposted on site.

TANKERTON ROUNDABOUT and all approach roads will also be closed from Wednesday 27 March for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours

The alternative routes for traffic affected by this are

Eastbound via Tower Hill, Marine Parade and Graystone Road

Westbound via Pier Avenue and Northwood Road

Traffic will be prevented from turning southbound into Northwood Road at the junction with Tankerton Road / Tower Parade

HIGHWAYS - DOVER AREA

HILLSIDE ROAD, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hillside Road, Dover, on or after 23 March 2013 for up to 2 days between 08:00 hrs and 17:00 hrs.

The alternative route is via Crabble Avenue, Crabble Road, A256 Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue, London Road, Coombe Valley Road *but note 13' 9" (4.2 M) height restriction,* Primrose Road, St Radigund's Road, Bunkers Hill Road.

PARK AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to phone cables in the carriageway, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting northbound traffic on Park Avenue, Dover, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

There will be no access *from* Maison Dieu Road or Park Street *into* Park Avenue.

The alternative route is via Godwyne Road and Salisbury Road.

Southbound traffic from Park Avenue will still be able to join Maison Dieu Road and Park Street.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

HENLEY STREET, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of BT works for the provision of a new telegraph pole for new customer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Henley Street Gravesend, on or after 19th March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction of Batts Road for approximately 500meters.

There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Gold Street, Sole Street, The Street Cobhambury Road and Luddesdown Road.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BULL LANE, STOCKBURY, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bull Lane, Stockbury, Maidstone, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 11 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "Nettlestead".

The alternative route is via Cowstead Road, Lower Hartlip Road, Cradles Road, Hill Green Road, The Street.

WEAVERING STREET, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of cabling and jointing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Weavering Street, Maidstone, on or after 21 March 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Grovewood Drive to Grove Green Lane.

The alternative route is via Provender Way, Grovewood Drive.

HIGHWAYS - SEVENOAKS AREA

FOUR ELMS ROAD, EDENBRIDGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Four Elms Road, Edenbridge, on or after 24th March 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction of Five Fields Lane to the junction with Green Lane. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Green Lane, Ide Hill Road, Sundridge Road, Church Road, Main Road, Westerham Road, Brasted Road, Hosey Common Road, Spout Lane, Pootings Road, Beech Road, Five Fields Lane.

POUNDSBRIDGE, PENSHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a new gas service to be installed , Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Poundsbridge, Penshurst, Sevenoaks, on or after 18th March 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Poundsbridge Manor. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via Poundsbridge Lane, Penshurst Road, Barden Road, Penhurst Road Speldhurst.

A225 RIVERHILL, WEALD, SEVENOAKS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of crash barrier works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A225 Riverhill, Weald, Sevenoaks, on or after 22nd March 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Riverhill House to Morleys roundabout. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via: approaching from the south, north along the A21 Sevenoaks Bypass, east along A25 Westerham Road, Chevening, A25 Worships Hill, Riverhead, south along A224 Amherst Hill Riverhead, A224 London Road, Sevenoaks, A224 Tubbs Hill Sevenoaks, A224 London Road, Sevenoaks, then South along A225 High Street, Sevenoaks and A225 Tonbridge Road, Sevenoaks. The diversion for traffic approaching from the north is the same but reversed.

WHITE POST HILL FARNINGHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of resurfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on White Post Hill Farningham, Sevenoaks on or after 13th March 2013 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from A225 Eynsford Road to the end of the cul de sac. There will be no access for through traffic at this location.

The alternative route is via A225 Eynsford Road, A20 Main Road/Gorse Hill/London Road, Botsom Lane, Maplescombe Lane.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CHAPEL STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction improvement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapel Street, Hythe, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Bank Street.

The alternative route is via High Street, A259 Rampart Road, Prospect Road, Bank Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Chapel Street will be suspended, to allow access up to the point of closure.

PARK FARM ROAD, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Park Farm Road, Folkestone, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 6 nights, as shown below.

Park Farm Road will be closed between Churchill Avenue and Park Farm Close (including the roundabout at the junction with Retail Park)

18 - 23 March 2013 closed between 21:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night (22:00 hours to 05:00 hours at the Retail Park Roundabout

The alternative route for all through traffic is via A259 Churchill Avenue, A20 Cherry Garden Avenue, A259 Radnor Park Road and A2034 Cheriton Road.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

BRENLEY LANE, BOUGHTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Brenley Lane, Boughton, on or after Sunday 24 March 2013 for up to 1 day, between 05:00 hours and 19:00 hours.

An additional closure required for 1 day, within 14 days from the completion of resurfacing, to allow for re-alignment of iron work in the carriageway.

The road will be closed between M2 Brenley Roundabout and the junction with Clockhouse Lane.

Diversion Routes:

Southbound - A2/M2 Roundabout, A2 Canterbury Road, Stockers Hill, Nine Ash Lane, South Street and Brenley Lane

Northbound - Brenley Lane, South Street, Nine Ash Lane, and A2

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

ADDINGTON ROAD & VICTORIA ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Addington Road & Victoria Road, Margate, on or after 23 March 2013, as shown below.

Please note that Addington Road and Victoria Road will not be closed at same time as each other

ADDINGTON ROAD, MARGATE will be closed between Addington Street and Victoria Road

Saturday 23 March 2013, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

The alternative route is via Addington Street, Dane Road and Victoria Road

VICTORIA ROAD, MARGATE will be closed between Dane Road and High Street

Saturday 23 & Sunday 24 March 2013, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours

The alternative route is via Dane Road, King Street, Hawley Street, Cecil Street, Churchfields and High Street.

Additional 2-day closures will be required for both roads, within 14 days from completion of the surfacing, to allow for re-alignment of covers, which if during school times, will be restricted to 09:00 hours to 15:00 hours.

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

Kent County Council
kent.gov.uk

HIGHWAYS

The dates of the additional closures will be notified locally and signposted on site.

The One-way Traffic Orders will be suspended in respect of the following roads, to allow access

ST JOHN'S ROAD - between St John's Street and Victoria Road

COWPER ROAD - between Arnold Road and Victoria Road

CHURCH STREET - between Arnold Road and Victoria Road

CHARLOTTE PLACE/CHARLOTTE SQUARE - between St John's Street and Victoria Road

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CECILIA GROVE, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow works for the construction of a central pedestrian island and additional pedestrian and junction improvements, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cecilia Grove, Broadstairs, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Grange Road and Beacon Road.

Please note that these works were initially scheduled to have been carried out in February 2013.

NORTHDOWN ROAD, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Northdown Road, Margate, on or after 4 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Queen Elizabeth Avenue and Princess Margaret Avenue.

The alternative route is via Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Northdown Park Road, Foreland Avenue, Northdown Road, Northumberland Avenue, Palm Bay Avenue, Princess Margaret Avenue, Eastchurch Road, Summerfield Road, Elmstone Gardens and Northdown Road.

A299 ST NICHOLAS ROUNDABOUT, ST NICHOLAS AT WADE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on A299 St Nicholas Roundabout, St Nicholas at Wade, on or after 22 March 2013 for up to 2 nights between 21:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

The roundabout will be closed in 2 phases, as shown below.

On 18 March 2013 the northern (coast-bound) half of the roundabout will be closed.

This means there will be no coast-bound access from the A299 Thanet Way to A28 to Margate or A299 towards Ramsgate

The full alternative A299 coast-bound route is via A299 Thanet Way, A291 Canterbury Road, Herne Bay Road, Sturry Hill, A28 Island Road, Staines Hill, Island Road, A253 Ramsgate Road, Canterbury Road, Monkton Roundabout, A299 Canterbury Road West, Hengist Way, Canterbury Road West, A256 Haine Road, New Haine Road, Margate Road, Ramsgate Road, College Road, Hartsdown Road, George V Avenue and A28 Canterbury Road.

POTTEN STREET will be closed at the junction with the roundabout, with a local diversion in place.

On 19 March 2013, the southern (Canterbury / London-bound) half of the roundabout will be closed.

This means there will be no access from the A28 or A299 from Thanet towards Canterbury and London.

The alternative route is via A28 Canterbury Road, B2052 George V Avenue, Hartsdown Road, Tivoli Road, Beatrice Road, Ramsgate Road, Margate Road, Haine Road, New Haine Road, A299 Canterbury Road West, A253 Sarre, A28 Island Road, Sturry Hill, Herne Bay Road, A291 Canterbury Road.

THANET ROAD, BROADSTAIRS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER MARCH 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install street lighting, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Thanet Road, Broadstairs, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 1 day, between 08:00 hours and midday.

There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Albion Street and Prospect Road.

The alternative route is via Albion Street, High Street, Prospect Place and Thanet Road.

HIGHWAYS - TONBRIDGE AREA

MILL LANE, HILDENBOROUGH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access the overhead BT network for a new connection, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Underriver House Lane to Vines Lane.

The alternative route is via Vines Lane, Riding Lane, Hildenborough Road, Underriver House Lane.

THE HEATH, EAST MALLING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of a new sewer connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Heath, East Malling, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Wateringbury Road to Hilltop Farm.

The alternative route is via The Heath, Pikey Lane, Broadwater Road, Clare Lane, Mill Street, High Street, Chapel Street, Wateringbury Road.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

COLDHARBOUR ROAD, BENENDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access an underground structure for BT cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coldharbour Road, Benenden, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 1 April 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Babbs Lane to New Pond Road.

The alternative route is via Babbs Lane, Mounts Hill, New Pond Road.

FOXHOLE LANE, BRENCHLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of overhead cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Foxhole Lane, Brenchley, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The alternative route is via Chestnut Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road, Bramble Reed Lane.

LADHAM ROAD, GOUDHURST (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to cut back overhanging trees, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ladham Road, Goudhurst, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 18 March 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Ladham House.

The alternative route is via Jarvis Lane, B2084 Chequers Road.

LUCKS LANE, PADDOCK WOOD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track maintenance works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 7 April 2013 for up to 1 night between 01.00hrs and 04.00hrs or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at Swatlands Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane.

VAUXHALL LANE, SOUTHBOROUGH, TUNBRIDGE WELLS (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for BT to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vauxhall Lane, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 7 April 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Honnington Farm.

The alternative route is via A26 London Road/Quarry Hill Road, A2014 Pembury Road, Vauxhall Lane (A21 link road).

HIGHWAYS - WEST KENT

VARIOUS ROADS, WEST KENT (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow a programme of carriageway patching and surface treatment works to be carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to restrict traffic on various roads in Kent, as shown below.

The Order will become effective on or after **18th March 2013** until the works have been completed.

The planned dates and times for each road closure or restriction are shown below, in a Schedule listed in alphabetical order of District.

Planned dates will be indicated by signage displayed on site 14 days in advance. Road closures and other restrictions will be in effect when the appropriate signage and barriers are in place.

Each road indicated will need to be closed for prepatching and surfacing works (as per the schedule below). The roads in the schedule will need to be re-closed approximately 14 days after the original closure to carry out road sweeping, replacement of lines and to adjust manholes as required.(These dates will be advertised on information boards on each site, 14 days in advance of commencement).

Every effort will be made to keep to the schedule shown below. Some minor modifications may be made to dates and duration of works, to be advised once known.

Adverse weather conditions may prevent some works being carried out on the planned dates. Roads that are missed will be re-scheduled, as advised locally and signposted on site.

SCHEDULE

GRAVESHAM

MEADOW ROAD, GRAVESEND - closed for its entire length from the junction with New House Lane.

12th April 2013 for 1 day

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

THE LARCHES, HIGHAM - closed for its entire length from the junction with Hermitage Road.

24th April 2013 for 1 day

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

HAVENGORE AVENUE, GRAVESEND - closed for its entire length from the junction with Lower Range Road.

25th April 2013 for 1 day

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

DARNLEY STREET, GRAVESEND - Closed between A227 Wrotham Road and Darnley Road.

26th April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via A227 Wrotham Road, Stone Street, Clive Road and Darnley Road.

MAIDSTONE

ULCOMBE HILL/THE STREET, ULCOMBE - closed between Lenham Road and Lodge Gardens

18th to 20th March 2013 and 3rd April to 7th April 2013

Alternative route Lenham Road, Headcorn Road, Liverton Hill, Headcorn Road, Lenham Road, Eastwood Road, Pye Corner

HOPE STREET - closed between Sandling Road and Alexandra Street, ALEXANDRA STREET- closed between Lower Boxley Road and Randall Street

SCOTT STREET - closed between Hope Street and Randall Street

25th March 2013 for 1 week and 22nd April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via Sandling Road, Staceys Street, Lower Boxley Road, Fisher Street, Randall Street

STREETFIELD, ULCOMBE - closed between The Street and end of cul-de sac

3rd April 2012 for 1 day

WARREN STREET - closed between Payden Street and The Harrow Public House

8th April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route is via Waterditch Lane, Coldharbour Lane, Bunce Court Road

HOSPITAL ROAD, HOLLINGBOURNE - closed between A20 Ashford Road and Greenway Court Road

9th April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via A20 Ashford Road, Eyhorne Street and Greenway Court Road

THORNHILL PLACE, MAIDSTONE - Closed between Fisher Street and John Street

19 April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route - North bound via Fisher Street, Peel Street and John Street. South bound via John Street, Hardy Street and Fisher Street.

ASPIAN DRIVE, COXHEATH - Closed for its entire length from the junction with Park Way.

22 to 23 April 2013 for 1 day

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

EGREMONT ROAD, BEARSTED - Cul-de-sac section to school closed for its entire length from the junction with Egremont Road.

6 April 2013 for 1 day

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

SEVENOAKS

SCHOOL LANE, SEAL - closed whole length

8th April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via A25 Seal Road, A225 Otford Road/Sevenoaks Road, Station Road, Pilgrims Way and Childsbridge Lane

TONBRIDGE & MALLING

PLAXDALE GREEN ROAD & LABOUR IN VAIN ROAD, STANSTED - closed between A20 London Road and Parsons Lane

2 April 2013 for 4 days and 18 April 2013 for 3 days

Alternative route via A20 London Road, Ash Lane, Hatham Green Lane and Parsons Lane

BRADBOURNE LANE, DITTON - Closed between A20 London Road and St Peters Road

6 April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative route via A20 London Road, New Road and St Peters Road

ROCHESTER ROAD, WOULDHAM - closed between Knowle Road and Scarborough House

10th April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative Route via Pilgrims Way, Burham Road, Borstal Street, Priestfields, B2097 Maidstone Road/Rochester Road, A229 Kits Coty slip road, Rochester Road, Pilgrims Way and Rochester Road

A227 WESTERN ROAD, BOROUGH GREEN - closed between A25 Sevenoaks and High Street

21st April 2013 for 1 day

Alternative Route via A25 Sevenoaks and High Street

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

MEADOW ROAD, SOUTHBOROUGH - closed between A26 London Road and Prospect Road

8th April 2013 for 1 week and 25 April 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route A26 London Road, Springfield Road and Prospect Road

FERNDALE, TUNBRIDGE WELLS- closed between Springhead to Hilbert Road

16th April 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route via Sandrock Road, Pembury Road and Sandhurst Road

MOUNT PLEASANT, PADDOCK WOOD - closed between Maidstone Road and Cogate Road

17th April 2013 for 2 days

Alternative route via Maidstone Road and Allington Road and Maidstone Road, Ringden Avenue and Cogate Road

OATFIELD DRIVE, CRANBROOK - closed for whole length

19th April 2013 to 23rd April (excluding the weekend)

Alternative route via A229 Angley Road, High Street and Carriers Road

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 17th March 2013

For further information, please contact Kent County Council Highways & Transportation, on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways

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FOOTBALL

Allen taking a game at a time in tight title race

With the business end of the season drawing ever closer, **Greg Miles** takes a look at Gillingham's tough run-in and how Martin Allen sees it

GILLINGHAM'S fight for promotion and, fingers crossed, the title looks set to go right to the wire, with seven of their final eight games coming against sides still in the hunt for a play-off finish or battling relegation.

Tuesday night's clash against Rochdale is arguably the only game in which Gillingham's opponents have neither a play-off spot to chase nor a place in the relegation zone to avoid. The seven fixtures that follow all involve sides in the mix at one end or the other.

Gillingham boss Martin Allen is well aware of the pressures facing managers at the wrong end of the table, having seen Barnet to safety last year against the odds, and Notts County in 2010/11. He is taking it one game at a time.

"Every one of them is going to be tough, every one is going to be a challenge, as every game has been since Bradford [the opening game of the season]," he said. "It's no different, in my mind.

"I don't need to shout at our players like I had to do in those jobs. Now I think how nice it is to be sitting where I am, for a change.

"We've seen over the past couple of months that the teams at the bottom are putting together some really good runs and fighting for their lives.

"Barnet put together a great run; Aldershot went unbeaten for a few games; and Bristol Rovers have put together a great run. All I can look at is the first game I have got ahead of us.

"I can see how supporters and journalists do it [study the run-in], looking at 'if we can beat them, we'll do this'. Can you imagine if I did that? My brain would look like a box of chicken chow mein."

The Gills are edging ever closer to confirming their play-off place, as with just 24 points to play for there is considerable distance between them and eighth position.

Tuesday night's hard-fought goalless draw at Exeter saw them pass two more milestones in their impressive season, making it 11 consecutive away games unbeaten in the league and matching last season's points tally of 70.

Picture: ADY KERRY

EXPERIENCE: Martin Allen keeps his focus

CHAMPIONS' POINTS TALLY

2011/12	Swindon 93 points
2010/11	Chesterfield 86 points
2009/10	Notts County 93 points
2008/09	Brentford 85 points
2007/08	MK Dons 97 points

That draw saw the Gills open up a six-point gap on stuttering rivals Port Vale, who had won just once in their last eight before their clash at York this weekend. Their defeat at Bristol Rovers on Tuesday saw them slip to third, behind form side Burton Albion.

It is equally cramped at the bottom of the table, where three of Gillingham's opponents – Accrington Stanley, Torquay United and AFC Wimbledon – are all loitering dangerously close to, or are in, the relegation zone, meaning they will not be be pushovers.

Vale also have a tough run-in, playing strugglers Aldershot, while they are up against top-seven hopefuls Cheltenham, Burton and Northampton Town. It sets up the season finale to be one of the most hotly contested in recent years.

A quick check shows that on average over the last five seasons the League Two champions have gone up with 91 points. That may be too high a total for the Gills, with their current points-per-game at 1.8 and a difficult run-in.

The average for second place is 84 points and third 82 points, final positions that, given their domination this season, Gills fans might find disappointing should they finish there.

• **Gillingham are away to Morecambe on Saturday (kick-off 3pm).**

LAST EIGHT FIXTURES

Rochdale v Gills
Tuesday, March 19
Rochdale are sitting comfortably in mid-table but should not get complacent as there is an almighty scramble for safety not too far below them.
Prediction: Play-offs out of reach, barring an incredible run.

Gills v Accrington Stanley
Saturday, March 23
Stanley have signed veteran strikers Francis Jeffers and James Beattie to aid their fight for survival, but goal difference will count against them.
Prediction: Relegation.

Fleetwood Town v Gills
Saturday, March 30
The League Two new boys are primed for a late promotion charge and could sneak into the play-offs... or higher.
Prediction: Play-offs.

Gills v Rotherham
Monday, April 1
Steve Evans's big spenders are in a scrap for an automatic promotion place but could fall short.
Prediction: Play-offs.

Gills v Torquay United
Saturday, April 6
The Gulls are in a perilous position, having hovered around the drop zone all season, but goal difference should save them.
Prediction: Safe.

Cheltenham Town v Gills
Saturday, April 13
The Robins tasted play-off final pain last year – that and their quality will see them into the final automatic spot.
Prediction: 3rd.

Gills v AFC Wimbledon
Saturday, April 20
The Dons have got plenty of fight left in them, having edged away from danger this week, and could be safe if they build on wins.
Prediction: Safe.

Burton Albion v Gills
Saturday, April 27
The Brewers have lost just three times this year, which has propelled them into the automatic spots, but they could burn out.
Prediction: Play-offs.

BOXING

DeGale eyes next chapter after Glow

JAMES DeGale is hoping that 2013 can be a springboard for his career – starting at Glow next weekend.

The 2008 Olympic gold-medallist is set for his second fight at the Bluewater complex on Saturday, March 23.

The 27-year-old's first fight under the new management of Mick Hennessy was at the venue back in December and proved so successful that he has come back for the defence of his WBC Silver Super Middleweight title against Colombian Alexander Brand.

He said the 3,000-seater centre is the perfect venue for what he hopes will be the start of a big year.

"2013, this is my year," he said. "I have got a big feeling about it. I sat down and we talked about the numbers, and what's the next step. By the end of the year I have an outside chance of having some big fights. If I carry on progressing, they will come.

"The atmosphere and vibe at Glow was unbelievable. Last time it was packed out with 3,000 people.

"I think it gives you an extra few per cent when the crowd are there for you and it's packed out with people wanting to see you win. I'm hoping it's the same as last time.

"In London we struggle for venues. It's either a small 1,000-size place or the massive 10,000-seater venues. There's nothing in between, but Glow is 3,000, which is perfect."

He was originally scheduled to fight in January, but this was postponed until February and then March. He was also originally pencilled in to fight Pablo Oscar Natalio Farias, which was changed last week.

"It's been a long training camp," he said. "I have been training since the second week of January, but I'm ready. I'm in a very good place. I'm feeling good. I have got a couple of little niggles, but you always get those going into a fight.

"He's a good fighter. He's tough and unorthodox. He's a bit wild. I have got to be switched on and on my game."

BIG YEAR: Olympic gold-medallist James DeGale with promoter Mick Hennessy

CRICKET

Tredwell finally feels like he belongs on international duty

By Greg Miles
greg.miles@archant.co.uk

JAMES Tredwell's fight for international honours may be ongoing, with him yet to boss the spinners' pecking order, but he has revealed that he finally feels at home with his England colleagues after a battle with confidence.

The Kent skipper is hoping to add to his solitary Test cap this month, having been called up as cover to Monty Panesar for the series in New Zealand. It follows first-choice Graeme Swann leaving the squad for America for surgery on his troublesome elbow injury.

It has been a tough fight for the 31-year-old to establish himself among the country's top spinners, but he said that his string of impressive performances in the ODI series against South Africa and Australia last summer, in which he took seven wickets in four matches, paved the way for a man-of-the-match display against India in January and subsequent involvement in the New Zealand ODI and T20 squads in February.

"Last summer to a certain extent was the turn. I had one good game and then we played South Africa and Australia at Old Trafford," he said. "That made me believe I could be there and belonged at that level. India topped that off and proved I could perform at that level. It's just a matter of doing what I'm doing."

He had previously doubted his ability to step up: "I think I would be lying if I said I didn't. At any level when you make a step up there's always doubts, maybe not outwardly, but it's 'Oh hang on, this is different to what I've been used to'. I think there will always be doubts there, so to get a good couple of performances is a must.

"That had a bearing on me doing well in India. Last summer proved to me I could do it at that level. To go to India with that confidence was good."

He remained coy on his chances of being selected for the Ashes, with it largely dependent on how fit Swann is by July.

"Swanny has a good chance of being fit by then. I'm sure he will feature and be there or thereabouts," he said. "Equally, Monty has done really well in India and he'll get a go, I'm sure. Just because he [Swann] is not there, it doesn't mean I'll feature. If the opportunity arises, you have to grab it."

Picture: ADY KERRY

NUMBER ONE? Tredwell in battle of the spinners

Much has been said about the differences in personality between the reserved Tredwell and extrovert Swann, but Tredders prefers to focus on improving his game rather than getting involved in any mind games.

"I think we are all individuals," he said. "It would be wrong for me to do it like Swanny, and him to do it like me.

"Obviously, I try to take things from other players, certainly cricket-wise, and improve my game and character. Everyone is a different character. It would be wrong to change yourself to something you're never going to be.

"We haven't been in squads together. If he's there, then I'm not. Our paths do cross and it's amenable when we do meet – hopefully he feels the same. There's a bit of friendly rivalry.

"When I'm around, hopefully it drives him on to better performances. That's sport, isn't it? We've been through that at various points in our career. All the time I'm pushing, trying to improve my game – that benefits everyone. I think it's a healthy situation."

It is a busy summer of cricket coming up, with the Ashes starting in July and the NatWest series against the Aussies in September, effectively making it two Ashes clashes. New Zealand are also visiting and there is the ICC Champions Trophy with which to contend.

"It's a massive summer. There's a fair amount coming up," he said. "I've been in and around the set-up for a while now – hopefully that's the case going forward.

"I have just got to put my name in the ring constantly – if that opportunity does arise, I've got to take it when it does come."

TRIO OF TOP SPINNERS

Graeme Swann
Test matches/wickets: 50/212
ODI matches/wickets: 76/101
T20I matches/wickets: 39/51
First-class matches/wickets: 239/689

Monty Panesar
Test matches/wickets: 46/159
ODI matches/wickets: 26/24
T20I matches/wickets: 1/2
First-class matches/wickets: 174/596

James Tredwell
Test matches/wickets: 1/6
ODI matches/wickets: 14/22
T20I matches/wickets: 5/3
First-class matches/wickets: 128/335

SPORTS SHORTS

MOTORSPORT

Omani Porsche star signs for Motorbase

MOTORBASE Performance has signed up Ahmad Al Harthy and Michael Caine for its British GT Championship title defence.

Team principal David Bartrum confirmed the GT squad will compete under the new banner of Oman Air Motorbase for 2013, with reigning British GT champion and Motorbase stalwart Caine partnered by Porsche Carrera Cup BG Pro-Am 1 champion Al Harthy.

Omani-based Al Harthy makes the step up to endurance-racing following his Pro-Am 1 championship title win in the Carrera Cup GB last season.

■ **The Championship gets under way at Oulton Park on Monday, April 1.**

CRICKET

Meet stars of past and present at conference

KENT is hostING a national conference to promote grassroots cricket at the St Lawrence Ground next weekend.

The One Game, One Day conference takes place between 10am and 3pm on Saturday, March 23, with cricketers past and present set to take part in Q&As and offer advice through practical sessions and workshops.

Those in attendance inclue Mike Gatting, Kent coach Jimmy Adams, England women's captain Charlotte Edwards and Kent player Sam Billings.

For more information, you can visit www.kentcricketboard.co.uk. Tickets are £10 per person or £5 per person in a group of four.

ATHLETICS

Sisters to represent GB at world champs

TWO young athletics stars have been named in the British World Cross-Country Championships squad.

Sisters 17-year-old Alex and 15-year-old Bobby Clay, of the Invicta East Kent Athletic Club, will represent GB's junior women at the championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland, on Sunday, March 24.

The pair have been punching above their weight this season, often finishing above their senior rivals in national events.

They qualified for the trip to Poland at the World Cross Trials at Cofton Park in Birmingham, with Bobby finishing second and Alex sixth.

Gills team of the Century

This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

NICKY SOUTHALL

Date of birth: January 28, 1972
Gills stats: 379 appearances, 30 goals
Clubs: Hartlepool, Grimsby, Gills, Bolton, Norwich, Nottingham Forest

THERE are not many players who can lay claim to having had four successful spells at one club, finishing your last at the age of 39. But Nicky Southall, also known as Trigger, can.

The energetic Middlesbrough-born player, who was at home anywhere across midfield or at full-back, first came to Gills fans' attention in 1997 when he signed on a free transfer from Grimsby Town.

He stayed with the club until the end of their first season in Division One in 2001, signing for Premier League Bolton Wanderers, where he struggled, despite 18 appearances and a goal against Newcastle United. That made him one of few players to appear in all four divisions.

The free-kick specialist returned to the Gills in December 2002, and helped them to 11th place in Division One the following season, their highest-ever finish in the Football League.

He stayed until they were relegated from the then re-branded Championship, joining Nottingham Forest in the summer of 2005. He stayed for two seasons as Forest just missed out on a play-off place in his final campaign.

He returned to the Gills for his third spell in 2007, then aged 35, but could not save them from relegation to League Two, which came at Leeds on the final day of the 2007/08 season.

He helped them back into League One in 2008/09 under Mark Stimson but left to join Dover Athletic as a player-coach under Andy Hessenthaler the following season. He then rejoined Hess at Gills as coach for his fourth spell in 2010 but left when Hessy stepped down in May 2012. He took over as player-manager at Ryman One South side Whitstable Town this season.

■ **So, do you agree?** Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email **greg.miles@archant.co.uk** or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SR**

Team sheet
1) Ron Hillyard
2) Steve Bruce
3) Chris Hope
4) Charlie Marks
5) Dennis Hunt
6) Andy Hessenthaler
7) Dick Tydeman
8) Terry Cochrane
9) Nicky Southall
10) ???????
11) ???????

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